The South baseball program has been on some kind of run since 2009.

Over the past four seasons, the Rebels have won two district championships and advanced to the Division I state final four in 2011. They were also Euclid district runner-up in 2010 and lost in the district semis to eventual champ Mayfield last spring.

The 2013 South squad has a different look than it has the past few campaigns, especially on the mound where longtime standouts Cameron Knott and Jake Hall have graduated.

The Rebels have five talented and experienced seniors leading the team this spring - T.J. Lett, Anthony Federico, Casey Klicman, Kurtis Moorehead and Jack Bundy.

Coach Steve Norris - in his seventh year in charge of the program - said expectations remain high on Shankland Boulevard despite the loss of Knott and Hall.

“We have a real solid core of seniors. We have guys who have put in a lot of time in the offseason. Kids who play other sports and work out and stay in shape. We have a good mix of seniors and underclassmen. It is all about team chemistry, so we have taken time to stress that. If we get that chemistry, we feel like the wins will take care of themselves.”

Danny Elliott is one of the very talented underclassmen that Norris will be counting on this year at the plate and on the mound. Elliott is a junior who will play third base and pitch for the Rebels.

Moorehead and Lett will also be at the top of the South rotation, but nobody is looking for any of the Rebels pitchers to step in and try to fill the shoes of Knott or Hall.

“It’s going to be by committee trying to replace Cam and Jake,” Norris said. “Kurtis, T.J. and Danny are our big arms on the mound, and we have sophomores who can throw the ball a little bit for us as well. Last year around the area was a phenomenal year for pitching and I think it was special. We should match up fine this season.”

Norris said he was concerned after 2011 that the team would feel entitled after the run to Columbus. Instead, the team came back hungry last season.

The disappointment of being knocked out by Mayfield in last year’s district semis at Euclid should just add fuel to the fire for a return to the top in the PAC and at the district tournament for the Rebels.

Brad Harwood, Russell Lamovec and Eddie Hulsman are among a group of players that could have breakout springs and have a major impact on the success South has on the diamond.

“This team is going to be a little young, but I am confident that those young guys are going to work very hard to earn their spots on the field. A lot of people think we are going to have a down year because we lost Cam and Jake, but I think we have the ability to compete with any team in the area,” Lett said. “We have a lot of power and a lot of guys who can swing the bat, so that should take some pressure off our pitching staff and help us be a balanced team. We realize that things aren’t going to be handed to us and we all have to work hard to reach our goals.

“As for the seniors, Casey and Anthony are like icons in the school, and the younger guys look up to them as people, not just as baseball players. That is huge for us.”
UP CLOSE WITH SOUTH ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

STEVE NEDLIK

Steve Nedlik is in his 6th season as the Athletic Director at South High School.

Nedlik joined the Rebels staff to start the 2007-2008 school year. Prior to that, Nedlik served as the faculty manager at Eastlake North High, his alma mater. Nedlik is a 1984 North graduate.

Overall, Nedlik has more than 20 years of service to the Willoughby-Eastlake Schools.

Nedlik earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Akron and holds a masters degree from Ashland University.

Nedlik and his wife, Ellen, have been married for 21 years and have five children; Rachel, Samantha, Sydney, Suzanne and Stevie.

Nedlik had a chance to talk with Varsity Chalk Talk about the Spring seasons and sports.

"Obviously when you get to a 10-0 season in football, even though Week 11 didn’t go way we wanted to go. Volleyball had great achievements. Adversity overcome. Very successful fall campaign. Wrestling program sent 10 kids to the district. Real excited about the second half of the boys basketball season. Real excited for the spring. Lot of kids out for track and field. Matt always does a great job with the boys track team. Steve and Erin always do a great job. It is exciting, continuity with the coaching staff and a continuity among philosophies is great."

"The weather has been incredibly difficult to deal with. It has been a scheduling challenge as the teams prepared for the season. Hopefully Mother Nature will help us out. Our facility is not designed for men’s and women’s sports to all practice inside at the same time. Tennis tryouts were held at One Wellness. Our teams need to get outside but it is like that everywhere."

"A couple things go against them in the spring. It is the end of the year which is sometimes tough, especially for seniors."

There is no gate, so in that respect I think more people should take advantage and go watch because there is no charge for these regular season games and it is great action and highly skilled athletes participating."

"I think spring is a great time for reflection on the entire school year. And not all of our kids go on and play sports at the college level so it is a great time to see them perform in high school one final season."

2013 SCHEDULE VARSITY BASEBALL SCHEDULE

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<td>North Rangers</td>
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<td>St Ignatius Wildcats (at Classic Park)</td>
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The 2013 South Rebels softball team has a tough act to follow - their own.

In 2012, senior pitcher Nicole Motusza led South to a 21-7 record, a PAC championship and a Division I district title. The Rebels season ended with a loss to Brecksville-Broadview Heights in a regional semi.

Rebels coach Erin Dodson said trying to replace a three-tool standout like Motusza with one player isn’t realistic, but there are some talented girls and plenty of experience on this year’s roster, which gives reason for excitement and continued high expectations.

“Our offense is there and we will continue to get better, and the defense is key to our success. We have to play good defense and bring an intensity every game,” Dodson said. “I think for this team, once the girls figure out their roles, we will be fine. We have kids who have been there before and we have a senior-laden team.”

“My expectations are to go out and play our game. Winning and losing isn’t the most important thing every game. If we lose, but play our game and play hard, I can handle that. It isn’t that we set all our goals for the year on winning the PAC or the district. We need to get better each and every game.”

South will rely heavily on junior pitcher Jessica Bradshaw, who transferred to the school from Virginia and had to sit out last spring. Bradshaw is a player in a key position taking over from one of the program’s all-time greats in Motusza, but Dodson said she is confident that Bradshaw will continue to improve as 2013 progresses.

Lauren Blaisinsky is a promising sophomore at second base, who brings a lot of energy to the team, and Kim Russ and Tyler Schabroni are talented players that could have a huge impact on the season.

A 2-5 start to the season included a spring break trip to play games in Orlando at Disney World that Dodson - in her seventh season at South - is much more than about wins and losses.

“It’s such a great bonding and chemistry trip, it has been so good for our team every year since we started traveling," Dodson said.

“If there’s any pressure this year it is what the girls put on themselves. All the seniors want to go out on top. I stress that we need to this year is this year and it doesn’t matter what happened last year or two years ago. Teams are always going to want to beat you, no matter what. I don’t look at it as we have a bulls-eye. We just need to go out and play our game every day, and I think we have potential.”

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**2013 ROSTER**

- Chris Adams
- Nick Adams
- Vincent Anzalone
- Jake Bell
- Ron Chakraborty
- Josh Christou
- Vince Fauceglia
- Joe Gardener
- Colin Greig
- Andrew Higgins
- Kyle Obrenski
- Anthony Teknipp

Bruce Myers has a couple major positives walking in as the first-year boys tennis coach at South.

**2013 BOYS TENNIS - SEASON PREVIEW**

The Rebels are a very close-knit team that he is confident will be a pleasure to work with, and sophomore Vince Anzalone has the potential to be one of the best players in Northeast Ohio if not across the entire state.

Myers played the sport in high school and continues to play three or four times to week now. He is also a teacher at South so there is some built-in familiarity with the members of the team.

“My approach to tennis to teach them how to be aggressive and to teach them where to place themselves on the court,” Myers said. “What I try to do at each practice is isolate a few kids and work on a certain aspect of the game such as the forehand or the backhand or how to step to the net.”

Anzalone went unbeaten in the regular season as first singles as a freshman in 2012 and has high expectations again this spring for himself and for the team.

“We did OK last year, and we think we can be better this season,” said Anzalone, who mentioned Geneva as a main competitor in the PAC. “I made it to the district finals and was one win away from the state tournament. That’s absolutely my goal this year is to make it to state.”

Myers said the 16-year Anzalone “has no weaknesses in his game.”

Anzalone, who has been playing tennis since he was 3-years-old, said his strength as a player is almost as much mental as any physical skills he brings to the court.

“I want to be as competitive as possible and make my opponent feel like I am better than him and there is no way he can beat me,” Anzalone said. “I don’t want that to come off as arrogant, but it is important to play with that kind of confidence in each match.”

Colin Greig advanced to the second round of the sectionals in 2012 and will again be counted on as a key contributor this spring for the Rebels.

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**2013 SCHEDULE (Varsity and Junior Varsity)**

**VARSITY**

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SOUTH REBELS

Spring Sports Information Guide
April 2013

BOYS AND GIRLS TRACK TEAMS INFORMATION

SOUTH BOYS TRACK 2013 ROSTER

Keyonte Banks
Joshua Barrus
Nathan Barrus
Stanley Bender-Wells
Frank Bolek
Alvin Bridges
Giovanni Brown

Jonathan Burton
Ethan Crow
Ante Curcic
Anthony Cveibar
Reno DiFonzo
Tyler DiNardo
Ryan Farrar

Jonathan Galicz
John Gececy
Thomas Gugliotta
Sam Guyett
Cameron Hamman
Dominic Herbst
Mike Howard
Milton Howard
Kareem Hunt
Tyree Hunter
Stephan Jeffries
Brandon Kerch
Devin Knott
Brian Koons
Christopher Krebs
Jonathan Krebs
James Lewis
Don Martin
Jeffrey Meyer
Danny Oress
Avery Pantaleano
Robert Parker
Marcus Pearcy
Michael Rayko

Tommy Richmond
Kyle Ritz
Jeffrey Ross
Robert Rossili
Tyler Rus
Joel Russell
Skyler Shepherd
Andre Smith
Maksim Spasuk
Alexander Spotts
Donald Swift
Geoffrey Swift
Zachary Szabo
Daniel Templar
Jeremy Thompson
Daniel Troll
Shawn Turk
Anthony Tutolo
Nathaniel Urban
Ben Vegel
Thomas Venclauskas
Anton Walton
Matthew Wyatt
Jay Young

SOUTH GIRLS TRACK 2013 ROSTER

Jessica Adkins
Leslie Armstrong
Clone Belknap
Kamryn Belknap
Destinee Blutford
Hayley Brathers
Morgan Bregtizer
Ariana Broom
Jena Cales
Olivia Cook
Kaia DeBruin-Pitkin
Veronica Doyle
Allison Farroni
Kara Farroni
Kelsey Fiorello
Alyssa Fioritto
Kylie Forbes
Madeline Franz
Taylor Galla
Mallory Garred
Givaughna Garrett
Alexis Gator
Kate Golnick
Shekinah Harris
Damaris Hibbert
Ke'Asia Hudson
Jamia Jackson
Khadayjah Jackson

Francesca Janes
Carri Jenkins
Courtney Kerch
Julia Kucmaric
Cheyenne Lawson
Danielle Levand
Carolyn Luck
Michala Luck
Kelly Mangosh
Mikayla Menn
Sydney Merk
Alyssa Morris
Samantha Nedlik
Emily O'Bryan-Murino
Claire Omerza
Lindsay Palmisano
Tara Phillips
Bridgette Ricco
Grace Rosenberger
Samantha Rus
Josephyne Salesky
Larissa Scott
Mis'cha Sellers
Colleen Shannon
Lauren Shingler
Christina Shrefler
Samantha Siepka
Shaniece Smith

Imani Taylor
Selena Taylor
Jennifer Tomb
Dajana Tomicic
Lauren Tyler
Danielle Vaalitis

Hailey Wetzel
Carolyn Williams
Rebecca Williams
Dasha Wilson
Ann Yafanaro
Amy Zusman
**BOYS TRACK SEASON PREVIEW**

The athleticism of the boys track team at South shouldn’t shock anybody.
At least, it certainly won’t come as a surprise to anyone who has seen the Rebels in other sports.

Senior Kareem Hunt, an All-Ohio running back and University of Toledo recruit, is also a standout on the track team. Hunt runs the 100, 4x100 relay and has already achieved a state best 6’8” in the high jump in the early spring.

Thomas Venclauskas, Tony Walton and Ty Rus - three other key members of the PAC champion football team - are also main contributors for Coach Matt Luck.

“There are expectations here. When you totally commit, I can’t guarantee you will accomplish everything you want, but whatever happens at the end, you will know that you have done everything you can do,” Luck said.

“Fundamentals are fundamentals. There is a purpose to them. We are trying to get that with all of them.”

Luck - who took over the boys track program in 2004 - likes the development of his athletes, the natural ability and the experience gained in 2012. There are still some growing and learning ahead, but the Rebels have talent and athletes that continue to work hard every day in practice.

“We’ve had success, and the kids have the principles of what we want to do,” Luck said. “You have to be strong and you have to put in the work. We spend a lot of time talking about goals. We sit down and talk about goals and the kids write them down and they the visualize what we want them to do.”

Hunt is the centerpiece of the team, but there are plenty of talented options beyond the 2011 co-winner of the News-Herald’s Tony Fisher Award winner for top football player in the area.

Luck also coaches the cross country team at South.

The 2013 team has a chance to be dominant in sprint events. The PAC is a very competitive league, with the likes of Chardon, Geneva and rival North, where the Rebels should do well individually and as a team.

“I think we should do well as a team and we are all competing to do the best we can and better than last year,” Hunt said. “We are all working hard as a team and we are very motivated.”

**GIRLS TRACK SEASON PREVIEW**

One thing South girls track coach Jim Mormino won’t have to worry about this spring is finding able bodies to fill all the events at a meet.

The Rebels have 64 girls out for track, a huge increase from when Mormino took over the program in 2008.

The numbers are there, and so is the enthusiasm. It is now a matter of getting the most out of that volume of athletes on the track and in the field events - and that isn’t always about finishing first.

“I watch these guys work so hard in practicing and conditioning, but it doesn’t always translate to the meets. These kids work their tails off in the offseason, so it is frustrating when we don’t do well, but I want them to compete and go for a PR (personal record) and sometimes that is more important than winning,” Mormino said.

“It’s good to have big numbers because you want to see a lot of kids out for track and a lot of kids participate in events, but we want to win, too.”

Winning and competing in the PAC starts with going up against league frontrunners Chardon and Geneva.

South will be without standout Maria Romano, who was a state qualifier for the Rebels in throws in 2012.

This year’s team is led by seniors Kara Farroni and Emily O’Bryan-Murano. Farroni, a middle-distance standout, is going on to compete in college at Washington & Lee. O’Bryan-Murano is expected to attend Notre Dame College.

“We have one of our biggest teams ever, so that adds a lot of depth,” Farroni said. “We have a really close-knit team and we all get along. … There is a lot of energy on the team, and I have developed a lot of relationships with the coaches, so it is a little bittersweet that this is my last year.”

For O’Bryan-Murano, who has been in the program since a sophomore, she had an up-and-down junior season due to injury, but she has high expectations individually and for the Rebels as a team.

“It is really nice to see the numbers, because this is like a family,” O’Bryan-Murano said. “I am always trying to help the younger girls. In track, it is always about what you are doing because the coaches can only push you so much. But, as a team, we are very close.”

Mormino, a former football coach at South, sees the program moving in the right direction.

“We have a freshman class that has a number of talented kids in there,” Mormino said. “We have some other kids back in various events as well.”

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**UPCOMING MEETS AND INVITATIONALS**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-17</td>
<td>North Rangers</td>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-19</td>
<td>Willoughby South Invitational</td>
<td>2:45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-24</td>
<td>University School Preppers</td>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-27</td>
<td>Rangers Relays</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-1</td>
<td>Riverside Beavers</td>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-4</td>
<td>Mentor Track Invitational</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>Madison Blue Straks</td>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
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