HARWOOD CONTINUED FROM PAGE NINE

Assistant AC-SH Athletic Director Cameron Cook said that emphasis on developing young people was central to the school's coaching search.

"Wins and losses are important, yeah, they are," Cook said. "But, they're not nearly as important as the people and the students that are made at our programs here and when they leave here."

On the field, Harwood's expectations are direct: Be organized, be consistent, and come ready to work.

"We're going to get back to the basics," Harwood explained. "We are going to be consistent, and I'm just going to try to motivate these guys the best I can."

His offensive approach calls for creating opportunities and forcing opponents to respond. The Patriots will bunt, steal bases, and look for chances to advance runners, while coming to the plate prepared to drive the baseball. He also acknowledged that an aggressive running game will sometimes produce outs. He nevertheless wants a team willing to challenge opponents and make things happen.

"We're going to put pressure on the defense," Harwood added during his remarks, with onlookers including the Patriot team.

Defensively, his priorities are sound fundamentals and dependable execution of routine plays. Underlying every part of that approach is an expectation of sustained effort.

"First pitch to the last, we're going to compete," Harwood said.

AC-SH Principal Shane Humphrey said that philosophy recalls the qualities he respected while coaching against teams led by Harwood's father, Kerry.

"You better get ready to buckle up, because Kerry and his boys are going to give you seven innings of hard play," Humphrey said, recalling his messages to his teams when facing AC-S as a baseball coach.

Humphrey believes the younger Harwood is prepared to meet the standard set in place by his dad.

Harwood will begin with a returning group that already has postseason experience. He anticipates approximately 21 players back, including a sizable junior class. He also pointed to Kaden Stinson, Cody Stotts and Ty Wilson as important senior leaders. Many of the returnees played substantial roles as freshmen and sophomores last season, when the Patriots finished as district runners-up and advanced to the regional tournament.

"They got a little bit of the taste of playing in the district championship and region," Harwood said. "So, they're hungry."

He expects much of the pitching workload to return, mentioning Wyatt Todd and the left-handed combination of Will Henry Edwards and Gage Garner among the pitchers positioned to handle significant innings. Much of the offense also returns, giving Harwood an experienced foundation while leaving opportunities for other players to earn places in the lineup.

The players see the coaching transition—brought about when Coach Bray stepped aside earlier in the fall to pursue other interests—as an opportunity to build on that foundation.

Wilson has known Harwood since entering the program as a freshman and believes that familiarity will help.

"Coach Harwood's been here with (Coach) Bray, and I think he's a good dude, a good coach, and I think he's leading the program in the right direction," Wilson said.

Kaden Stinson also expressed confidence in the new coach.

"I think it'll be fun," Stinson added. "He's a great coach, from what I know, and he'll keep us in the winning column for sure."

Stotts wants the Patriots to turn last season's experience into a deeper postseason run.

"I just think we'll add from last season," Stotts noted, expressing hopes of moving from district runner-up to district champion and advancing through the regional tournament toward state.

Harwood believes the willingness to compete is already present. His task is to channel it into consistent preparation and performance.

To "pull the rope" will be an expectation when the season gets underway in the spring. For Kyle Harwood, there's no doubt he'll be at the front of the line, leading the way to build upon the deeply rooted tradition that is AC-S baseball.

PATCON CONTINUED FROM PAGE NINE

include models, experiments, technology projects and multimedia presentations.

"PATCON encourages creative thinking by giving students opportunities to design, build, or propose solutions to real-world problems," Humphrey added.

Teamwork is another central part of the experience, with students sharing ideas, solving problems and learning from one another.

"Visitors at PATCON can expect to see a variety of interactive and student-led displays and presentations that showcase creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration," Humphrey said.

PATCON offers families an opportunity to strengthen connections with teachers, better understand school expectations and see what students are accomplishing beyond the grade book.

ROTARY CONTINUED FROM PAGE EIGHT

an annual report, emphasizing accountability as it builds community support.

The "26 for 26" campaign is the foundation's first step toward turning that commitment into lasting local assistance. For more information, contact any Rotary Foundation Board Member. The campaign runs to Dec. 31 to the end of the tax year. For more information, brochures on the campaign will be displayed throughout the county at businesses and other centers.

www.thecitizen-times.com

November 16-23: Local Drop-Off Locations Opening Soon For Operation Christmas Child

Volunteers are preparing to collect Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts during National Collection Week, November 16-23. Nearly 5,000 drop-off locations will open across the country in November, and shoe box packers can find their local drop-off locations in Scottsville.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering gift-filled shoe boxes to children including many who are suffering from war, poverty, disease and disaster. Operation Christmas Child hopes to reach 12.8 million children in 2026 with the hope of Jesus.

Shoe box packing is fun for individuals, families and groups! Find a step-by-step guide on the How to Pack a Shoe box webpage. The project partners with local churches across the globe to deliver these tangible expressions of God's love to children in need. Participants can donate $10 per shoe box gift online through "Follow Your Box" and receive a tracking label to discover its destination.

"Shoe box gifts may seem simple, but they have an eternal impact. Each box is an opportunity to tell a boy or girl in need about the true meaning of Christmas," said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse. "I've delivered these boxes around the world, and I never get tired of seeing the joy that they bring—even in the midst of disasters, war, and poverty."

Participants can find the nearest drop-off location and hours of operation as they make plans to drop off their shoe box gifts. The online lookup tool is searchable by city or ZIP code. Signs at each location will identify the drop-off. Local drop-off locations and hours in the Allen County are listed below:

Hickory Hill Church
2146 Franklin Road
Scottsville, Ky. 42164

Monday, Nov. 16, 10 a.m.-noon; Tuesday, Nov. 17, 4-6 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m.-noon; Thursday, Nov. 19, 4-6 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 20, 10 a.m.-noon; Saturday, Nov. 21, noon-3 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 22, 2-4 p.m.; Monday, Nov. 23, 8 -10 a.m.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, seeks to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 244 million gift-filled shoe boxes to children in more than 175 countries and territories.

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