

WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

500

Irish coach needs just two wins to reach 500

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— FC Sacred Heart Coach Doug Goltz,
included in a scouting report to his team, Feb. 22, 2012

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FALLS CITY





Photo by Jim Langan

2012-13 Falls City High Boys' Basketball Team, front row, left to right: Trenton Pentecost, CJ Dawkins, Bradley Rose, Bryan Rose, Anthony Baker; second row: Ty Larson, Lane Lovenburg, Brandon Gibson, Derik Eickhoff, Colton Reiss, Tucker Merz, Luke Kirkendall; third row: Weston Witt, Brenden Heckenlively, Mitchell Harling, Jordy Stoller, Cody Schawang, Tyler DiGiacomo, Brandt Vice; back row: Reese Hogue, Zach Jordening, Wade Witt, Cord Huettner, Jack Hartman, Mitchell Campbell and Teddy Stutheit. Not pictured: Jeremy Robinson and Austin Ramer.

Tools are their for another special Tiger basketball season

By Jim Langan

Well Orange and Black fans, if you thought the football season was fun, what might unfold this winter for the Tiger boys' basketball program should you have you grinning.

Falls City High Head Coach Don Hogue begins his 14th season for the Tigers and the mix of experience and unproven but ready to step in players, along with a favorable schedule and district has optimism high for the Tigers.

Falls City, 16-9 a season ago, returns four starters – seniors Cord Huettner (6-2 forward) and Wade Witt (6-2 forward), junior Mitchell Harling (6-0 guard) and sophomore Jordy Stoller (5-11 guard) – as well as senior Mitchell Campbell (6-2 forward) and juniors Reese Hogue (6-3 forward) and Tyler DiGiacomo (6-0 guard), who all played quality minutes a season ago. Sophomore newcomer Jack Hartman (6-3 guard/forward) saw his varsity minutes increase towards the end of last season and will take a big step forward

this year. His athleticism and versatility were on full display during the football season and will make it hard for Hogue to keep him off the court. It wouldn't be a shocker to see him quickly become a starter.

"Campbell, DiGiacomo and Hartman will all be a huge part of our rotation and had great summers," Coach Hogue said.

Harling, a two-year starter, averaged 8.5 points and just over two assists per game last season, but struggled with consistency

(continued on Page 3)

2012-13 FALLS CITY TIGERS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Nov. 30	Syracuse	4:30
Dec. 1	Tri-County	1:00
Dec. 4	Hiawatha, KS	4:30
Dec. 7	Auburn	4:30
Dec. 11	St. Joe Leblond, MO	6:00
Dec. 15	Plattsmouth	5:00
Dec. 17, 18	SE Nebraska Tourn. @Peru State College	TBA
Dec. 27-29	LeBlond Tourn. @ St. Joe	TBA
Jan. 3	Johnson-Brock	4:15
Jan. 5	Marysville, KS	2:00
Jan. 11	Maryville, MO	4:30
Jan. 12	Elmwood-Murdock	3:30
Jan. 15, 17, 19	Raider Classic @ Seneca, KS	TBA
Jan. 25	Wymore Southern	6:00
Jan. 29	Platteview	4:30
Feb. 1	Auburn	4:30
Feb. 5	Nebraska City	5:30
Feb. 7	Humboldt-TR-S	4:15
Feb. 15	Fairbury	6:00
Feb. 18, 19, 21	Class C1-1 Sub-Districts @ Johnson-Brock	TBA
Feb. 25	District Final	TBA
Mar. 7-9	State Tournament @ Lincoln	TBA

2011-12 record: 16 – 9

Head Coach: Don Hogue, 13th year (152 – 159).

Assistant Coaches: Jason Bredemeier, Kory Huppert and Kevin Scheitel.

Top Returners: Cord Huettner, Wade Witt, Mitchell Harling and Jordy Stoller.

Key Losses: Josh Stoller and Kenny Frederick.

Outlook: The Tigers are primed for another solid season and should look to better their win total from a year ago. An added year of experience for two-year starter Mitchell Harling and sophomore Jordy Stoller should help solidify the Tiger backcourt. In the front court will be Wade Witt and hopefully a healthy Cord Huettner, both seniors. Also watch for Reese Hogue, Mitchell Campbell, Tyler DiGiacomo and Jack Hartman to get quality minutes in the rotation. Falls City will again lean on great effort to win ball games, but look for this team to be more of a threat offensively when compared to Hogue's past couple of teams. Notable: The Tigers are the only team in their subdistrict who had a winning record last year (Auburn, Conestoga, Louisville, Syracuse). The other district will be competitive with Ashland-Greenwood, Linc. Christian, Linc. Lutheran and Raymond Central.

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Tiger boys BB

(continued from Page 1)

from the floor at times. The young man is the glue of this team and if he can get it going offensively while also keeping others involved on the offensive end, the sky's the limit for the Tigers.

"Mitchell is our floor general," Coach Hogue said. "He is a scorer and can and will need to score for us."

One thing about Harling is he might be a better defender. He possesses great foot work and despite having only 40 steals a season ago, he took a team-high 20 charges while committing less than three fouls per game.

Complimenting Harling in the backcourt will be Stoller, who averaged 5.1 ppg a season ago, but was second on the team in 3-point percentage. Stoller's brother Josh graduated last May and with that went 10.5 ppg as well as a 37.4 3-point percentage, so Jordy should look to fill the void left by his brother.

Down low for the Tigers will be Huettner and Wade Witt. Witt averaged 7.2 ppg and was second to Huettner in rebounding. The lefty led the team in field goal percentage (51.1) last season and is a tough matchup for opposing bigs down low because of his deceptive quickness.

Questions remain about Huettner, the leading scorer and rebounder last winter, because of a back injury suffered in the playoff loss to Boys Town in football back on October 25.

Huettner, who averaged 13 ppg and 6 rpg last year, was slated to return to practice Monday, but his availability for the start of the season is still up in the air as Hogue wasn't sure about Huettner's legs being under him just yet.

With all the falls and spills associated with basketball these days, the biggest uncertainty for the 2012-13 Tiger basketball season and the young man's future athletic plans will be that lower back. If it has had enough time to heal, then it should be smooth sailing, but if the pain lingers it could make for a long winter for Huettner. If I were betting though, knowing this guy's toughness, I'd go with the former as opposed to the latter.

"Cord and Wade are guys that started and played as sophomores," Coach Hogue said. "They both bring physical play and scoring for us. Two different styles, but effective."

Junior post player Reese Hogue added a couple inches to his frame and will provide quality minutes, especially on the glass and the defensive end.

"These three will play a huge part on the boards and defending typically bigger posts," Hogue added.

Hogue's team will again rely on playing stingy defense. Opponents averaged just 43 points a game last year and over the past 5-6 seasons they are scoring right around the 40 ppg mark. The philosophy is to cause chaos for 32 minutes, all 84-feet and turn the other team's turnovers in to points for the Tigers.

This defensive approach requires a lot out of the players physically, so the added depth this

season should increase the effort on the floor, not that it was a problem a season ago, but the young players are a year older.

"I feel we have the tools in the toolbox to get the job done," Hogue said. "We have to find our roles on the team, which is playing together, playing hard and playing smart. We gotta play every game thinking it is our last."

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With all that said, all signs are pointing toward another quality basketball season for the Tigers. If Huettner's back can hold up and Harling takes the reigns as the bona fide leader – when the ball tips off and during practice – 20 wins is a reachable goal.

More importantly, a second district title and a trip to Lincoln for Hogue and the Tigers isn't out of the question.



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2012-13 Falls City High Girls' Basketball Team, front row, left to right : Allyson Scholl, Madison Olberding, Claire Poppe, Tressa Chandler, Elizabeth Eickhoff, Brooke Scheitel; Middle Row: Libby Bauman, Megan Vollmer, Baylee Vrtiska, Sydney Armbruster, Jerrica Beckner, Desirae Dawkins, Danielle Kirkendall; Back Row: Marris Ogden, Candace Chandler, Jordan Phroper, Faith Williams, Morgan Phroper, Josie Lunsford. Not pictured: Krystal Samqua and Jillian Lunsford.

Experience, youth look to blend for 2012-13 Lady Tigers

By Jim Langan

A bit of a youth movement is in sure for the Falls City High Lady Tiger basketball program as only three players with ample varsity experience return for the 2012-13 team.

Seniors Claire Poppe and Tressa Chandler and junior Brooke Scheitel contributed mightily last season, but after that trio plenty of fresh faces will need to step in to fill

the void left by Ashleigh Jordening, Ashley Sickel and Jacy Lewis.

Jordening did just about everything a year ago for the Lady Tigers, leading her team in scoring (10.54 ppg), while also being at the top of just about every other statistical category.

Poppe will be one of, if not the best athlete on the court any given night. The senior guard averaged 8.46 points per game and led the

team in assists (72) and steals (42) last season. Her quickness and aggressiveness should cause a lot of problems for opposing guards and she is versatile enough to cover forwards down low.

Chandler is a tad undersized for a post player at 5 feet 8 inches, but she possesses a knack for the ball and rarely has a problem grabbing rebounds or loose balls. Chandler will have to repeat or maybe even

2012-13 LADY TIGERS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE		
Nov. 30	Syracuse	4:30
Dec. 1	Tri-County	1:30
Dec. 4	Hiawatha, KS	4:30
Dec. 7	Auburn	4:30
Dec. 11	Wymore Southern	6:00
Dec. 15	Plattsmouth	2:00
Dec. 17, 18	SE Nebraska Tournament @ Peru State College	TBA
Dec. 27-29	LeBlond Tourn. @ St. Joe	TBA
Jan. 3	Johnson-Brock (Parent's Night)	4:15
Jan. 5	Marysville, KS	2:00
Jan. 11	Maryville, MO	4:30
Jan. 12	Elmwood-Murdock	2:00
Jan. 15	St. Joe Leblond, MO	6:00
Jan. 17	St. Joe Lafayette, MO	6:00
Jan. 22, 24, 26	Hiawatha, KS Tournament	TBA
Jan. 29	Platteview	4:30
Feb. 1	Auburn	4:30
Feb. 5	Nebraska City	6:00
Feb. 7	Humboldt-TR-S	4:15
Feb. 11, 12, 14	Class C1-1 Sub-Districts @ Johnson-Brock	TBA
Feb. 22	District Final	TBA
Feb. 28 - Mar. 2	State Tournament @ Lincoln	TBA

increase her 7 rebounds per game from a season ago. Coach Milam is also looking for her to increase her scoring inside, a big struggle for the entire team a year ago – the Lady Tigers shot under 30 percent from inside the arc, despite having quality from 15 feet in.

Also standing 5 feet 8 inches is Scheitel, who averaged 3 ppg last season, and should double that total this winter. Scheitel is a versatile player who can score from both inside and out. Coach Milam is looking for her to help Chandler on the boards this winter.

New faces and players who should have increased roles on the varsity team this winter will be junior Madison Olberding (5-8 forward) and sophomores Sydney Armbruster (5-4 guard), Jerrica Beckner (6-1 center), Jill Lunsford (5-4 guard) and Baylee Vrtiska (5-6 guard). All five of these girls were big contributors on their fall sports teams and will play a big role in the 2012-13 Lady Tiger basketball season.

“We will be young at some positions,” said Coach Milam. “Leadership from our juniors and seniors will be important early in the season.”

Quickness and athleticism will be two strong points this season and if the Lady Tigers can improve on last season’s 29.5 field goal percentage expect to see a competitive team night in and night out.

If all the new pieces can meld quickly, Falls City’s schedule is fair enough for a push towards a fourth straight double-digit win total.



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Photo by Jim Langan

2012-13 Falls City High Wrestling Team, front row, left to right: Jarod Peden, Jesse Butrick, Chris Coonce, Morgen Valentine, Blake Black, Montana Mirelez; back row: Coultan McCann, Zach Ernst, Jeremy Zimmerman, Dylan Ackerman, Rasmus Nurminen, Chase Thompson, Wade Maddox. Not pictured: Clayton Burge

2012-13 FALLS CITY TIGERS WRESTLING SCHEDULE

Dec. 1	Wamego, KS Invite	9 AM
Dec. 8	Crete Invite	9 AM
Dec. 15	Auburn Invite	9 AM
Jan. 4	Ashland-Greenwood Invite	6:30
Jan. 10	Sabetha, KS/Maryville, MO	5:30
	Double Dual	
Jan. 12	Marysville, KS Invite	9 AM
Jan. 17	HTRS/Horton, KS	5:30
	Double Dual (Parent's Night)	
Jan. 19	Plattsmouth Invite	9 AM
Jan. 26	Raymond Central Invite	9 AM
Jan. 31	Auburn/Nebraska City Dual	5:00
	@Auburn	
Feb. 1	Boys Town Dual Tourn.	3:30
Feb. 8-9	Class B-1 Districts	TBA
	@Nebraska City	
Feb. 14-16	State Tournament @ Omaha	TBA
	(HOME MEETS IN BOLD)	

No returning state qualifier a first for Windle

By Jim Langan

"It is going to be an interesting season," said Falls City High Wrestling Head Coach Roger Windle, who enters his 20th season as head coach and 25th with the program.

Why you ask?

This season is the first in Coach Windle's 25 years that he does not have a returning state qualifier on the team.

"I've never had a season without a returning state qualifier coming back," Windle said. "So it will be a new experience for me."

That means a team wet behind the ears a little bit, but mostly it means he has a team of wrestlers looking to prove themselves.

Senior Jesse Butrick (120/126 pounds) and Wade Maddox (152) are the most experienced wrestlers returning for Windle. Both should make solid pushes for the state tournament in Omaha.

Also looking to punch a ticket to Omaha will be junior Chris Coonce (113), freshman Morgen Valentine (120/126) and junior Chase Thompson (170). Thompson missed all of last year due to an injury, but

competed at a high level during the football season and should be ready to make an impact on the mat.

"I really think we have a legit shot at qualifying at 113, 120, 126, 152 and 170," Windle said.

Coach Windle had this season circled as maybe his last with the Tiger wrestling program, but is having second thoughts and might stick around.

"I haven't decided yet," Windle said with that uniquely recognizable smile on his face. "My assistants (Keith Gilkerson, Troy Nelson and Ernie Valentine) want me to stick around, so we'll just see how it all goes."

Well, you can be assured that those young men strapping on the head gear will do everything in their power to persuade Coach Windle to stick around.

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Photo by Jim Langan

2012-13 Falls City Sacred Heart Boys' Basketball Team, front row, from left to right: Brady Cromer, Lane Scheitel, Lane Barnhill, Clay Finck, Colton Witt, Thomas Froeschl; middle row: Henry Arnold, Reggie Johansen, Bailey Witt, Ben Mullins, Sawyer Kean, Cameron Jordan, Joshua Froeschl, John Bauman; back row: Eli Ramer, Jarod Fiegenger, Matt Goltz, Chaz Dunn, Colin Niemeyer, Sean Strasheim, Logan Scheitel, Austin Malone Not pictured: Sam Arnold.

Irish possess ingredients for repeat trip to Lincoln

By Jim Langan

A good recipe for success on the basketball court calls for great guard play at both ends, quality post players who can score, rebound and defend, a good amount of athleticism and a high basketball

IQ.

Well, the 2012-13 Falls City Sacred Heart boys' basketball team could be the grocery list.

Irish Head Coach Doug Goltz returns for his 26th season just two wins shy of 500 career victories. On his way to the milestone, Goltz has

led FCSH to 12 statetournaments, won eight state championships and posted a ridiculous 30-4 record in Lincoln. But as much of an achievement 500 will be, a deep run in the

state tournament this season holds higher priority.

The Irish return four starters from a season ago and in essence return five with senior Lane Barnhill back in the lineup after missing the entire 2011-12 season with a knee injury.

Barnhill rejoins seniors Clay Finck and Brady Cromer and juniors Chaz Dunn and Matt Goltz in the starting lineup, one that will cause opposing defenses plenty of problems.

Goltz averaged 10.3 points and 7.8 rebounds per game last season and was a 2nd team All-State selection by the Lincoln Journal Star in Class D2. The 6-foot-2 forward

2012-13 SACRED HEART IRISH BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Nov. 30	Sterling	5:00
Dec. 4	Wetmore, KS	4:00
Dec. 7	Freeman	4:00
Dec. 10	South Holt, MO	5:00
Dec. 11	Lewiston	4:00
Dec. 14	Humboldt-TR-S	4:00
Dec. 18	Mound City	4:30
Dec. 21	Elmwood-Murdock	4:45
Dec. 28-29	Friend Holiday Tournament	TBA
Jan. 4	Diller-Odell	5:00
Jan. 7-12	Mudecas Tourn. @ Beatrice	TBA
Jan. 15	Rock Port, MO	5:00
Jan. 18	Pawnee City	4:00
Jan. 22	Wymore Southern	4:00
Jan. 24	Johnson-Brock	3:00
Jan. 25	Nebraska City Lourdes	5:00
Jan. 28 - Feb. 2	Pioneer Conf. Tournament @HTRS/Lewiston/Southern	TBA
Feb. 5	North Andrew, MO	5:00
Feb. 8	Palmyra	6:00
Feb. 16	Nebraska City Lourdes	6:00
Feb. 19, 21	Class D2-1 Sub-Districts @Beatrice	TBA
Feb. 26	District Final	TBA
Mar. 7-9	State Tournament @ Lincoln	TBA
(HOME GAMES IN BOLD)		

2011-12 Record: 16 – 9
Head Coach: Doug Goltz, 26th year (498-133).
Assistant Coaches: Adam Santo.
Top Returners: Lane Barnhill, Clay Finck, Brady Cromer, Chaz Dunn, Matt Goltz, Colin Niemeyer.
Key Losses: David Bangert.
Outlook: Head Coach Doug Goltz enters his 26th season for the Irish and is just two wins shy of 500 wins, another historic milestone by a coach that has accomplished just about everything. That win should come quickly for Coach Goltz whose team returns four starters from a year ago, as well as senior Lane Barnhill who missed the 2011-12 season with a knee injury. Barnhill averaged 9.2 points per game two years ago as a sophomore and should pick up right where he left off. In the backcourt with Barnhill are returning starters Clay Finck and Chaz Dunn who will make the Irish backcourt one of the best in Class D2. Matt Goltz, who is a threat inside and out, should have a breakout year. Brady Cromer joins Goltz in the front court and averaged 7.5 ppg last year. The Irish will play a tough schedule, but rest assured, they'll be a force to be reckoned with come March.

creates trouble for defenders with his ability to score from just about anywhere on the floor and has been playing at the varsity level since he was a freshman, so an outstanding winter is expected.

Cromer is a huge presence in the middle at

(continued on Page 7)

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Irish boys BB
(continued from Page 6)

6-4, 235 pounds and will need to grab a big share of the rebounds. His scoring may take a hit with Barnhill back in the lineup, but he is a vital part of where this team is looking to be at the end of the season.

Dunn is a slasher who took over games at times last season and should be the third major scoring threat with Barnhill and Goltz. Any one of those three could light it up on any given night and the Irish will be tough if all three score consistently night in and night out. Dunn played a big role last season with Barnhill out and dished out a team-high 82 assists, while turning it over only 48 times. Dunn and Barnhill playing together will be fun to watch.

Finck will again handle the point for Coach Goltz and should increase his assist total from a season ago (65), especially given the fact that the Irish will undoubtedly increase their points-per-game average from a season ago (45.3). Expect to see the Irish look to push the ball a little more and bump that average to the mid-50 range. Much is asked of the point guard in Coach Goltz' offense and Finck has been running the show since he was a sophomore, so look for his best season yet as a distributor.

Others in the mix will be senior Lane Scheitel (6-0 guard) and juniors Colin Niemeyer (6-0 guard), Jarod Fiegenger (6-0 forward) and Sean Strasheim (6-2 forward). All are quality role players who will make plenty more plays than mistakes. Niemeyer averaged almost 4 ppg last year and Fiegenger is a wide body down low who will use his frame to grab rebounds. All four will add quality minutes defensively.

Last season, the Irish struggled to score at times, but with Barnhill, Dunn and Goltz all poised to put up good numbers on the offensive end, scoring droughts should be few and far between.

Defensively, the Irish will get apply plenty of pressure whether it be in a zone or man-to-man. Their athleticism and quickness will make either brand of defense easy to execute and having the benefit of solid depth should allow them to put plenty of full-court pressure on teams in hopes of creating more easy buckets.

Perennial nemesis Sterling is again in the Irish's subdistrict and defeated Sacred Heart in two of their three meetings last year, but the one loss came when it mattered most – in the subdistrict final. The Irish defeated the Jets 58-44 last February to advance to the district final.

Rounding out the D2-1 sub are Lewiston (7-13 last year) and Parkview Christian (14-8), so a rematch of last year's sub final is expected. On the other side of the district are Deshler (17-8 in D1), Dorchester (1-20), Meridian (6-18) and Nebraska Lutheran (3-16). The Irish's sub is without a doubt tougher than the other side, so a trip to Lincoln will most likely be won by advancing through the subdistrict.

With a stable of guards any team would be envious of and experienced post players, the Irish should flirt with 20 wins. Coach Goltz always has teams playing better in late-February than during the early part of the season, so look for this team to be peaking at the right time and reach their second-straight trip to Lincoln.



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Dec. 4	Wetmore, KS	4:00
Dec. 7	Freeman	4:00
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Dec. 28-29	Friend Holiday Tournament	TBA
Jan. 4	Diller-Odell	5:00
Jan. 7-12	Mudecas Tourn. @ Beatrice	TBA
Jan. 15	Rock Port, MO	5:00
Jan. 18	Pawnee City	4:00
Jan. 22	Wymore Southern	4:00
Jan. 24	Johnson-Brock	3:00
Jan. 25	Nebraska City Lourdes	5:00
Jan. 28 - Feb. 2	Pioneer Conf. Tournament @HTRS/Lewiston/Southern	TBA
Feb. 5	North Andrew, MO	5:00
Feb. 8	Palmyra	6:00
Feb. 12, 14	Class D2-1 Sub-Districts @Beatrice	TBA
Feb. 22	District Final	TBA
Feb. 1 - Mar. 2	State Tournament @ Lincoln	TBA
(HOME GAMES IN BOLD)		

Young, guard-oriented Lady Irish in 2012-13

By Jim Langan

The words “guard-oriented” haven’t been tossed around lately when talking about the Falls City Sacred Heart Lady Irish basketball team, but the transition from 2012 graduate Sara Landis is well underway.

Landis accounted for one-third of her team’s points last season by averaging 16.7 per game, while also pulling down 13 rebounds a game. She was also third on the team in steals and swatted 65 shots.

Yes, she is not a player who comes along often, nor is she someone you replace.

Photo by Jim Langan



2012-13 Falls City Sacred Heart Girls' Basketball Team, front row, from left to right: student manager Chloe Schock, Emma Schock, Kathryn Bieker, student manager Teresa Morehead; middle row: student manager Rachel Magdanz, Elizabeth Magdanz, Ashli Jordan, Abby Magdanz; back row: student manager Elizabeth Keithley, Abbey Neddenriep, Maggie Goltz, Haley Ward, Nicole Fiegenger, Kelsi Fouraker, Rachel Keithley, student manager Erin Brewer.

But that’s precisely what FCSH Head Coach Luke Santo has in mind with the new approach.

“We don’t have the size we had in the past, so we will be more guard-oriented,” Santo said. “We should be hard to guard if we can spread teams out.”

Junior Ashli Jordan, a two-year starter, is the seasoned-vet of the backcourt, but will need to move into more of a scoring role after averaging just under five points per game last season.

“Ashli will need to be more aggressive on the offensive end,” Santo said. “Last year she averaged 4.9 points per game. We need her to double that.”

Jordan will be joined in the backcourt by sophomore twins Abby and Elizabeth Magdanz. Abby will most likely run the point while Elizabeth is more of a scoring threat.

The duo combined for 17 ppg and 175 assists for the season and will need to pickup some of the scoring load this season.

Inside will be junior Emma “The Enforcer” Schock, who is a little undersized at 5 feet 8 inches tall, but Santo is confident she will work hard and battle inside. Schock averaged a pair of rebounds and just under two points per game last year, but will see her minutes increase dramatically this winter.

Joining Schock down low, but also a threat to score from 15 feet is talented freshman Maggie Goltz. At 6-feet tall, Goltz will be utilized frequently in the post, but has the ability to slash and create her own shot with the dribble.

“Maggie can play all over,” Santo said. “She is a good shooter and driver, but we will also try to post her up at times.”

Sophomores Kelsi Fouraker and Nicole Fiegenger and junior Kathryn Bieker will need to be ready to have their number called. Depth will be a big concern for Coach Santo and the Lady Irish with only 10 girls on the roster again, so those three need to be ready at any moment.

The experienced gained last season for the Lady Irish during their run to the Class D2 State Tournament should pay dividends this year, especially for Jordan and the Magdanz twins as they transition into carrying the team this season.

Coach Santo will have them prepared each night and this group of girls is competitive enough to play with anybody.



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2012-13 H-TR-S/PC TITAN'S WRESTLING SCHEDULE

Nov. 29	Freeman Duals	4 PM
Dec. 1	Cougar Classic @Conestoga	9:30 AM
Dec. 8	Sabetha Invite	9:30 AM
Dec. 18	D-Club Invite @Dorchester	10 AM
Dec. 19	Louisville Dual	5:30 PM
Jan. 5	Clipper Invite @Malcolm	9:30 AM
Jan. 10	Cross County Invite @Stromsburg	10 AM
Jan. 17	Double Dual w/ Horton/@Falls City	5:30 PM
Jan. 19	Louisville Invite	9:30 AM
Jan. 26	Raymond Central Invite	9 AM
Feb. 2	HTRS/PC Invite	9:30 AM
Feb. 8-9	Class C-1 Districts @Louisville	TBA
Feb. 14-16	State Tournament @ Omaha	TBA
Feb. 23	State Dual Championships @ Kearney	TBA

Underclassmen to lead Titans

By Jim Langan

The transition from junior high to high school is a big adjustment for any kid, but it seems to be an even loftier undertaking going from the athletic fields, courts, or in this case wrestling mats at the junior high level to those at the high school ranks.

Typically, young athletes have freshman and junior varsity sports to help them in this transition, but when it comes to wrestlers, many freshman and sophomores are called upon to fill varsity weight classes. A tough task in such a physical sport.

As is the case for the 2012-13 Titan wrestling team.

Sophomores Ben Railsback (160 pounds) and Jacob Phelps (145) will help lone senior Nate Wiers (170) lead an inexperienced group for head coach Tyler Ferebee, who enters his seventh year.

Railsback finished with a 12-22 record a year ago, but wrestling at 152 and 160 as a freshman is no picnic.

"Ben slowly developed into a pretty good wrestler last year," Ferebee said. "He figured out how to use his strength as an advantage. If he starts the year like he ended last year he will be very tough."

Phelps also wrestled in the middle-weight range (138) a year ago and finished with a 9-18 record, but Coach Ferebee likes the skill set the 145-pounder possesses.

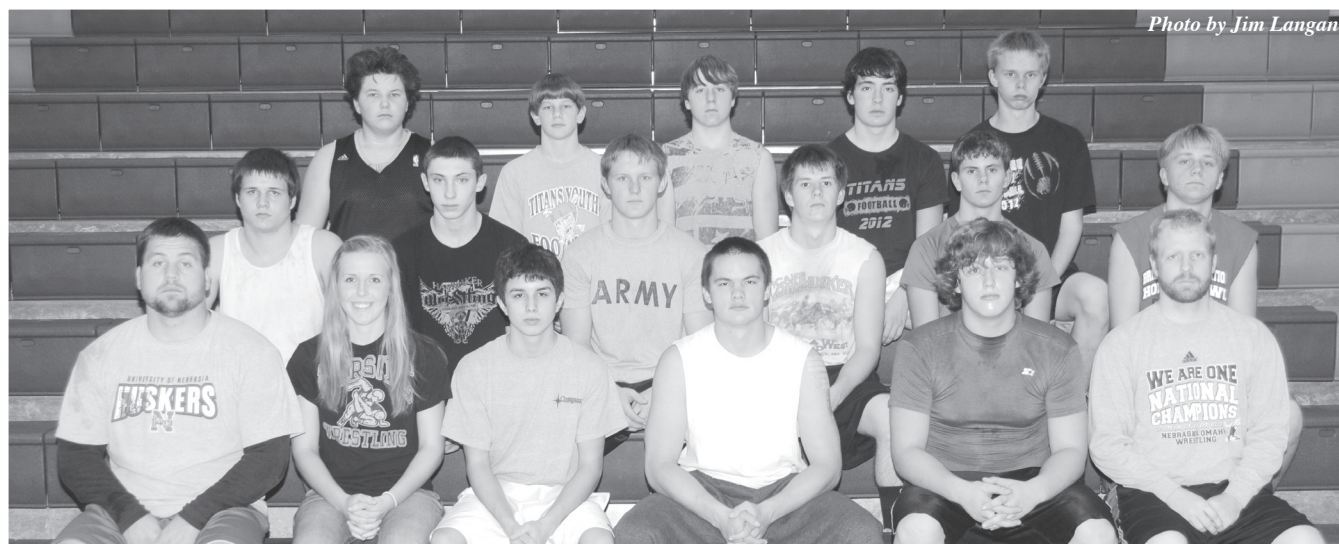


Photo by Jim Langan

2012-13 Humboldt-TR-S/Pawnee City Wrestling Team, front row, from left to right: Assistant Coach Quentin Coatney, student manager Reba Burgett, Anthony Jimenez, Nate Wiers, Jacob Moore, Head Coach Tyler Ferebee; middle row: Bradley Mack, Adam Walker, Ben Railsback, Jacob Phelps, Austin Tackett, Jesse Hickey; back row: Dalton Roars, Braden Shiley, Austin Pagel, Koalton Taiclet, Jonathan Bruns. Not pictured: Joe Worthey and Ava Hickey.

"Jacob had some ups and downs last year, but has the tools to be very good," Ferebee said.

Wiers moves up to 170 pounds from 160 last season where he finished one win shy of a .500 record (14-15). Wiers best finish came at the D-Club Invitational in Dorchester last December when he finished fourth.

"Nate will be a solid 170 this year," Ferebee said. "He's had flashes of greatness and if he can put it together early, he could be really tough."

Outside of these four grapplers, the other weight classes are filled with question marks. Three freshman – Austin Tackett (132/138), Austen Pagel (126/132) and Koalton Taiclet (152)

– join newcomer Anthony Jimenez (120/126), who moved to the area from Lincoln, as the other cogs in the wheel.

If these four can handle the transition to varsity wrestling and handle the physicality that comes with this level of competition, the Titans could be competitive this winter, as well as the next several years.

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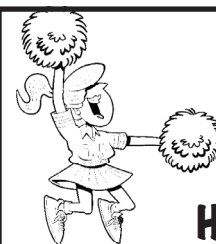


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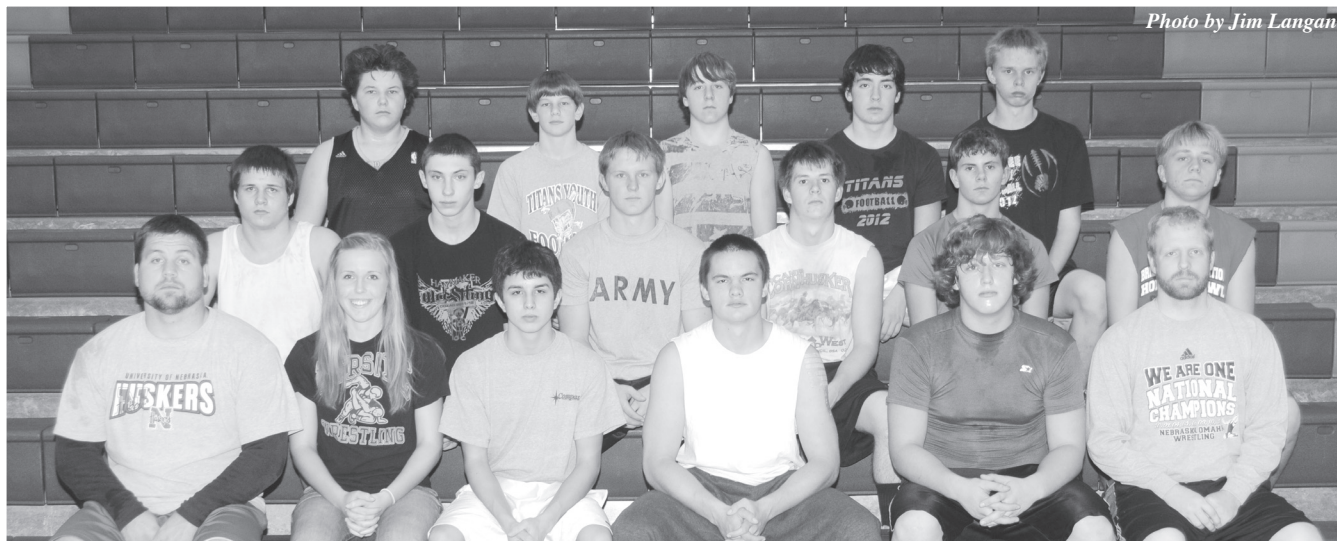


Photo by Jim Langan

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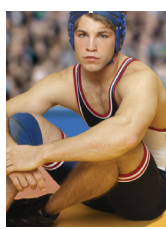



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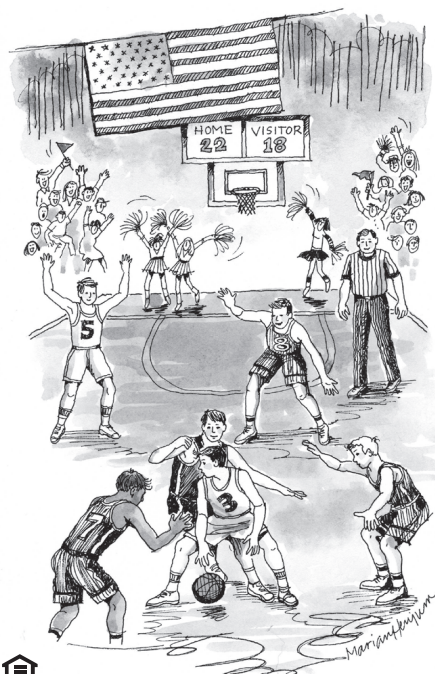
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2012-13 Humboldt-TR-S Girls' Basketball Team, front row, from left to right: Assistant Coach Brittany Friesen, Paige Watkins, Paulina Smith, Megan Pursche, Liz Railsback, Student Manager Shelby Wilhelm; middle row: Head Coach Taylor Dunekacke, Lexi Schuster, Destiny Worthey, Mollee Sharpe, Carmen Alexander, Rhylie Niedielski; back row: Jackalyn Fink, Jena Fink, Carissa Carlin, Ashton Nanninga, Beke Schroder, Becky Blecha, Lindsey Harlow. Not pictured: Assistant Coach Kelly Glathar.

First year head coach Taylor Dunekacke ready to lead Lady Titans

By Jim Langan

Defense, defense, defense will be the theme for first year head coach Taylor Dunekacke and the Humboldt-TR-S Lady Titans basketball team this win-

ter. "This summer we worked really hard at our basketball camp on improving our defense," Coach Dunekacke said. "We want to be able to play multiple defenses, which will give us a

better chance to win games." Dunekacke takes over for Deb Standerford who won just five games in her two seasons leading the Lady Titans. HTRS has won just 10 games the past four seasons after posting a 17-7 record in 2007-08. Dunekacke knows the pro-

cess is more important than single games. "Our main goal is to get better each game," Dunekacke said. "We are still trying to find out what type of team we are and what defenses and offenses work best for us. After the holiday break, we hope to establish and identity." One thing the new coach has working in his favor? Solid athletes with varsity experience returning to his lineup. Junior Mollee Sharpe led the team a year ago in rebounding and was a consistent starter. Paige Watkins and Liz Railsback also return and will help lead the way. Watkins was the second leading scorer and rebounder in 2011-12.

2012-13 H-TR-S LADY TITANS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Nov. 30	Diller-Odell	4:00
Dec. 4	Lewiston	4:00
Dec. 6	Neb. City Lourdes	4:00
Dec. 11	Freeman	4:00
Dec. 14	Falls City Sacred Heart	4:00
Dec. 15	Wymore Southern	2:00
Dec. 28-29	HTRS Holiday Classic	TBA
Jan. 3	Auburn	4:30
Jan. 4	Sterling	4:00
Jan. 7-12	Mudecas Tourn.	TBA
Jan. 15	Pawnee City	4:00
Jan. 17	Johnson County Central	4:00
Jan. 22	Rockport	6:00
Jan. 28 - Feb. 2	Pioneer Conf. Tournament	TBA
Feb. 7	Falls City High	4:15
Feb. 8	Johnson-Brock	3:45
	(Parent's Night)	
Feb. 9	Lewiston Tournament	9 AM
Feb. 12, 14	Class C2-1 Sub-Districts @ Syracuse	TBA
Feb. 22	District Final	TBA
Feb. 28 - Mar. 2	State Tournament @ Lincoln	TBA

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Photo by Jim Langan

2012-13 Humboldt-TR-S Boys' Basketball Team, front row, from left to right: Kevin Beethe, Dominic Vasco, Joel Svoboda, Nathan Stuckemeyer; middle row: Assistant Coach Todd Dierberger, Schuyler Kuhlmann, Anthony Knudson, Noah Sherman, Head Coach Rod Nanninga; back row: Will Drake, Devon Hunzeker, Kaleb Knudson, Nolan Schafer, Eli Herr, Assistant Coach Matt Schaadrt.

Beethe, Vasco, Svoboda to lead Titans

By Jim Langan

Three seniors will look to lead a pack of underclassmen, highlighted by five freshmen, this winter for the Humboldt-TR-S Titan basketball team.

6-foot-4 center Kevin Beethe, 6-1 guard Joel Svoboda and 6-2 guard Dominic Vasco are the trio whom Titan Head Coach Rod Nanninga will lean on to lead an inexperienced squad looking to improve on a rough 1-18 season a year ago.

Nanninga, who enters his second season as coach of HTRS, said that for success to come to his team, the seniors ability to blend with the younger guys will have to develop quick for the Titans to improve through the course of the season.

"The most important thing will be how the seniors mesh with the freshmen to play as a team" Nanninga said. "Overall, the guys are very athletic and have conditioned well."

Beethe is a strong post presence and will be

the go-to guy for the Titans and should be their main scoring threat. He averaged double-digits in points and rebounds a season ago and should repeat those totals again this season.

Vasco and Svoboda are both very athletic and will give opposing guards problems on the defensive end.

The pack of underclassmen Coach Nanninga will look to are sophomore Schuyler Kuhlmann (6-0 guard) and freshmen Nolan Schafer (6-2 guard), Will Drake (6-1 forward), Caleb Knudson (6-1 guard), Devan Hunzeker (6-0 guard) and Eli Herr (6-1 guard).

How quickly these young men can adjust to varsity competition after competing in junior high just a year ago will determine the outcome of the 2012-13, but the experience these guys gain this season will pay dividends in the coming years at HTRS.

2011-12 H-TR-S TITAN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Nov. 30	Diller-Odell	4:00
Dec. 4	Lewiston	4:00
Dec. 6	Neb. City Lourdes	4:00
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Feb. 9	Lewiston Tournament	9 AM
Feb. 18-19, 21	Class C2-1 Sub-Districts @Syracuse	TBA
Feb. 25	District Final	TBA
Mar. 7-9	State Tournament @ Lincoln (HOME GAMES IN BOLD)	TBA

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Tigers, Hogue get first win Saturday

Christmas will be a little merrier for the Falls City High boys' Basketball Team, who avoided a winless holiday and coach Don Hogue's first career victory Saturday, beating Plattsmouth 48-44 at the Richard Auditorium.

The win snapped a four-game losing skid and gave Falls City a win before Christmas for the first time in a couple of years.

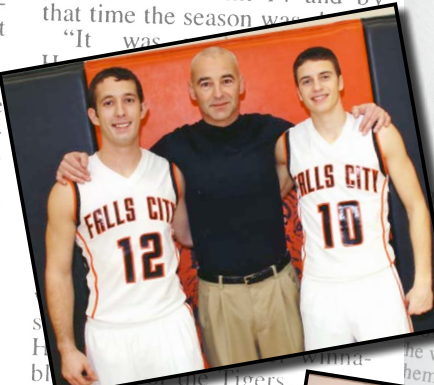
It was the first career victory for Hogue, who is in the first year of his first head coaching position.

The 1-4 Tigers now go to Hiawatha tonight to try and win it two in a row. The game is the last before Christmas. They go to the St. Joseph LeBlond Tourney next week.

Like the night before at Hiawatha, where senior Dennis Druba scored 19 points and no other player topped 10, the Tigers got balance contributions from a lot of players.

The biggest turning point, I think, during a shoot-out Saturday morning. The coaches told the kids that we were everybody to step up and make a team," Hogue said. "We did that. We had some

The win was just what the doctor ordered. FC avoided an extensive losing streak that can certainly take its toll. Last year, the streak hit 14 and by that time the season was over.



Falls City splits overtime thrillers

By Jason Schock
The Falls City Tiger Basketball Team made a statement this weekend and did so in a...
Falls City, winners of six games over the course of its previous two years, split the overtime games over the weekend and earned two wealthy opponents, proving they really do belong.

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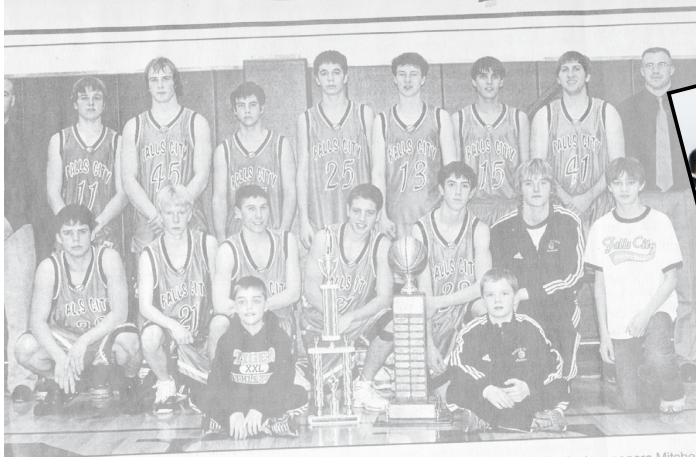
Believing Lincoln

21-2 Tigers on brink of tourney berth

Jason Schock
Two years ago, a caravan of Falls City cars, trucks, minivans and a team bus eased out of the lot, west onto a slick, packed Highway 4, and the vehicles' occupants - all of them - had to wonder if the



Win #100



Joseph (Mo.) LeBlond Holiday Tournament Champion Falls City High, front row, from left: Student managers Mitchell Harling and Reese LeBlond; middle row, Zach Schawang, Shane Butrick, Mark Dunn, Brett Boltz, Jared Elliott, Thomas Gist, student manager Logan Faller; back row, head coach Don Hogue, Lee Hullman, Jake Bartek, Dan Werner, Mitch Liberty, Kasey Huppert, Jordan Faller, Kevin Rieger, assistant coach Matt Uher and Mark Junker. Photo by Jason Schock.

Tiger comeback nets tourney title

Falls City erases 12-pt. deficit, wins it all at St. Joe

Jason Schock
The Falls City High boys' basketball team Friday night edged a tournament championship trophy high above their heads, doing so, spirits, enthusiasm...

FC owns massive 28-8 rebounding edge in season-opening win

By Jim Langan
Consistency and effort were the two themes from Falls City High's season opening road victory Friday night in the brand new gymnasium at Syracuse High School.



we out-busted and out-worked them the whole game."

Junior Cord Huetner played like a man inside for the Tigers. Huetner scored 16 points, grabbed six rebounds and had two steals and a block. Senior Josh Stoller scored nine for FC and had a game-high four steals.



Demolition

By Jason Schock
After played 11 consecutive...

Falls City High Boys Basketball All-Time Coaching Wins	
1. Jug Brown	193
2. Jack McIntire	160
3. Don Hogue	152
4. Dennis Crawford	94
5. Bob Henderson	93
6. Ron Holman	44
7. Mark Ritchie	42
8. Terry Flynn	36
9. Eldon Linquist	22
10. Douglas Dickerson	20

Journal SPORTS

Tigers own glass, thus Syracuse

LET guard Tigers (from turn

forcing 28 t which turne