



Fall Sports Preview 2021



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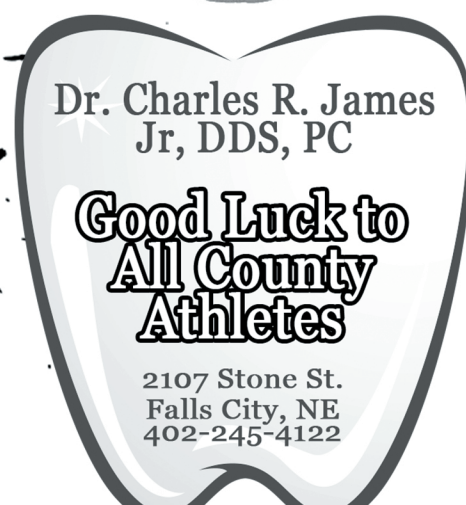
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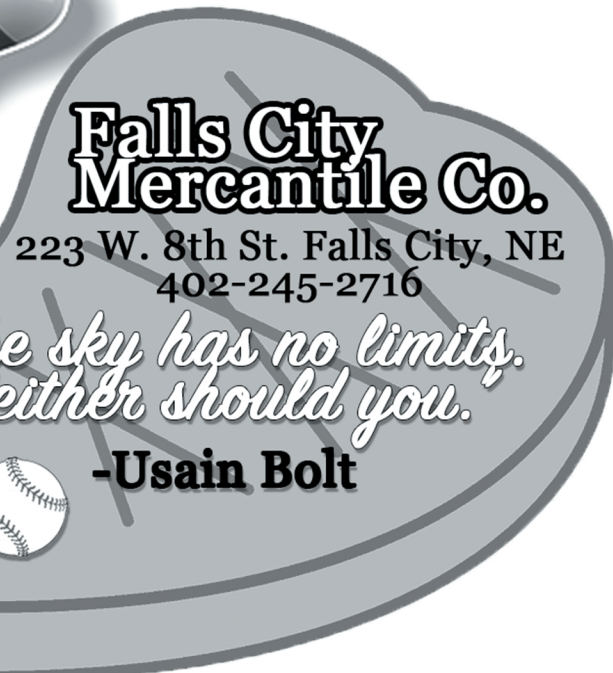
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-Usain Bolt



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(L-R) **FRONT ROW:** Derek Helmick, Kemper Foster, Zane Ebel, Robert Gilkerson, Tate Wilcox, Jaxyn Strauss, Jaden Nolte, Charlie McNeely, Justin Brewer, Jon Craig, Thomas Fields, Stiephan Fields, Leo Lenderman, Nathan Stroebel, Keifer Adams **BACK ROW:** Quenton Adams, Kadyne Strecker, Caleb Zulkowski, Wyatt Kreifles, Preston Buckminster, Wyatt Olderding, Kellen McAfee, Carson Simon, Cameron Schramm, Rayce Farmer, Bailey Thims, Deric Vice, Isaac Fredrick, Teagan Alexander, Kaedyn Courtney **NOT PICTURED:** Caleb Zimmerman, Dalton Helmick, Talon Anderson, Ethan Boatright, Gannon Ogden, Cayden Lee, Dustin Stilen

2021 TIGER FOOTBALL

Aug. 27	vs. Platteview	Away	7 p.m.
Sept. 3	vs. Raymond Central	Away	7 p.m.
Sept. 10	vs. Malcolm	Home	7 p.m.
Sept. 17	vs. Louisville	Away	7 p.m.
Sept. 24	vs. Fairbury	Home	7 p.m.
Oct. 1	vs. Lincoln Christ.	Home	7 p.m.
Oct. 8	vs. Milford	Away	7 p.m.
Oct. 15	vs. Neb. City	Home	7 p.m.
Oct. 22	vs. Auburn	Home	7 p.m.

TIGER FOOTBALL READY TO POUNCE ON 2021 OPPONENTS



Story and Photo By Brian McKim

After posting back-to-back 3-6 seasons in 2018 and 2019, the Falls City Tiger football team took a big step forward in 2020, finishing the year at 5-4. In mid-September, the Tigers put together a three-game winning streak, including a 55-0 drubbing of Fairbury. Unfortunately, the Tigers lost three of their final four games and missed the postseason.

Head Coach Darin Fritz enters his tenth season as the signal-caller for the Tigers and boasts a 46-30 record at FC.

Falls City has a lot of experience coming back this season. Coach Fritz welcomes back 20 letter winners from last season, including six starters on offense and five on defense. The Tigers once again will run the single wing on the offensive side of the ball and will run a base 4-3 defense. The Tigers will need a few of the younger players to step up on both sides of the ball to be successful. Falls City last made the playoffs in 2015 when they finished 7-3, falling to Norfolk Catholic, 42-0 in the opening round of the Class C1 playoffs.

Coach Fritz will lean heavily on his senior class for leadership. Jaden Nolte, a 6'5 285lb senior, will anchor both the offensive and defensive line. Nolte, a four-year starter, has All-State capabilities. Shoring up the line along with Nolte will be senior Thomas Fields. Fields, a 6'2 220 lineman, was the leading tackler from last season's squad. Fields also led the team in sacks and tackles for losses. Fields also excels in the classroom as he is a 4.0 student. Another athlete back for his senior season is Carson Simon. Carson, a 6'0 200lb running back and linebacker, was the leading rusher for Falls City last season with 724 yards and passed for another 310. Also, look for senior Rayce Farmer, a 5'10 165 cornerback, to add depth to the defense. Last season, Farmer led the Tiger in interceptions. Justin Brewer, a 6'0 235lb lineman, has lettered twice and had been a very consistent player for Coach Fritz. Look for 6'3 255lb Wade Wasson and 5'9 235lb Dalton Helmick to give the Tigers valuable minutes on the field this fall.

"We lost a good group of seniors from last season," said Fritz. "I think we have good, dedicated, young players to fill in for all of those positions, however. We return all of our offensive line and our leading rusher and passer from last season. Defensively we return most of our defensive line and a lot of experience in the defensive backfield. The goal is to build on last season and be a more competitive football team. With the size and experience we have returning; I am expecting this group to be very competitive.

The Tigers lost a big senior class from last season. Gone from last year's 5-4 squad are Jayden Kreifels, Leighton Vice, Drake Butler, Jace Heckenlively, Tyler Uhri, Jaxon Lunsford, Stephan Acton, Alex Pelletier and Lukas Aldana.

Expect to see Steiphan Fields, Jon Craig, Kellen McAfee, Wyatt Olberding, Kadyne Strecker, Cam Schramm, Jaxyn Strauss, Charlie McNeely and Daniel Hollens on the field this fall.

The Tigers will open the 2021 season on the road at Platteview on August 27th. Last year Falls City defeated the Trojans 28-18 to kick off the 2020 campaign.

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Go Teams!



(L-R) **FRONT ROW:** Tyler Catlin, Will Ewers, Derek Schawang, Jake Froeschl, Brogan Nachtigal, Nicholas Keithley, Zachary Keithley, Peyton Doerr **MIDDLE ROW:** Cole Schawang, Rob Froeschl, Quincy Koelliker, Gavin Clow, Riley Nelson, Matthew Neddenriep, Sam Dunn, John Crouse, Ethan Neddenriep, Clayton Keithley, Connor Nelson **STANDING:** Jack Stice, Jake Froeschl, Evan Keithley, Joe Simon, Gavin Lechtenberg, Vaughn Lenard, Carson Sells, Evan Bailey, Thomas Aitken, Caleb Kirkendall, Henry Rottinghaus **NOT PICTURED:** Jakob Jordan

2021 IRISH FOOTBALL

Aug. 27	vs. Neb. City Lourdes	Home	7 p.m.
Sept. 3	vs. Neb. Lutheran	Away	7 p.m.
Sept. 10	vs. BDS	Away	7 p.m.
Sept. 17	vs. Mead	Home	7 p.m.
Sept. 24	vs. Johnson-Brock	Away	7 p.m.
Oct. 1	vs. HTRS	Home	2:30 p.m.
Oct. 8	vs. Omaha Christian Academy	Home	7 p.m.
Oct. 14	vs. Diller-Odell	Away	7 p.m.

IRISH FOOTBALL LOOKS TO GET BACK TO THE TOP OF CLASS D2

Story and Photo By Brian McKim

The Falls City Sacred Heart football program has gotten close the past two seasons, falling in the semifinals both years, first to Humphrey St. Francis in 2019 and then last year to runner-up Sandhill-Thedford.

Head Coach Doug Goltz will be entering his 34th season as coach of the Irish, compiling an astounding 327-56 record. In his 34 years, the Irish have won eight state titles and put together an 87-game winning streak in the '80s and '90s. Back on the sideline helping Goltz this fall are Luke Santo, Brian Lemerond and Garrett Harring.

Sacred Heart will return 15 letter winners from a season ago but will miss the three seniors from last year's squad.

All three players were All-State starters, Del Casteel, Jack Fiegenger and Kyle Bauman.

"Del Casteel's contributions will be difficult to replace," said Goltz. "If we have a good summer, stay healthy and have a few other guys step up, we could be one of the better D2 teams."

Casteel was the leading tackler and rusher last year, Fiegenger was the top receiver and Bauman was the guy that kept the team together. Casteel rushed for 758 yards and 23 touchdowns and made 137 tackles on defense. Fiegenger caught 34 balls for 803 yards and 13 TD's and Bauman had 37 tackles, including eight sacks.

The Irish will bring back five starters on both sides of the ball and will look to attack teams with a multi-look offense and a 3-3 defense.

Goltz will look for seniors Brogan Nachtigal, Jakob Jordan, Tyler Catlin and Derek Schawang to lead the way. Nachtigal, a 6'3, 215lb specimen, will anchor the line on both sides of the ball but may see some time at linebacker as well. Jordan, a dual-threat QB, will also see the field on defense as a defensive back. Catlin will see action as a fullback and linebacker and Schawang will play on the offensive and defensive lines. Nachtigal finished last season with 96 tackles, including four sacks. Jordan got in on 40 stops and had five interceptions to go along, with 697 yards rushing and 1579 passing yards. The Irish outrushed opponents 2144-1484 last year and had a 1754-1120 advantage through the air.

Coach Goltz will also look to Evan Keithley, Jake Froeschl and Sam Dunn to provide big minutes for the Irish. Keithley started a few games a season ago for SH and proved to be one of the best punters in Class D2. Froeschl, an end and defensive back, is a very athletic and explosive player on the field and Dunn, a junior, will split time at end on offense and defensive back on the other side of the ball.

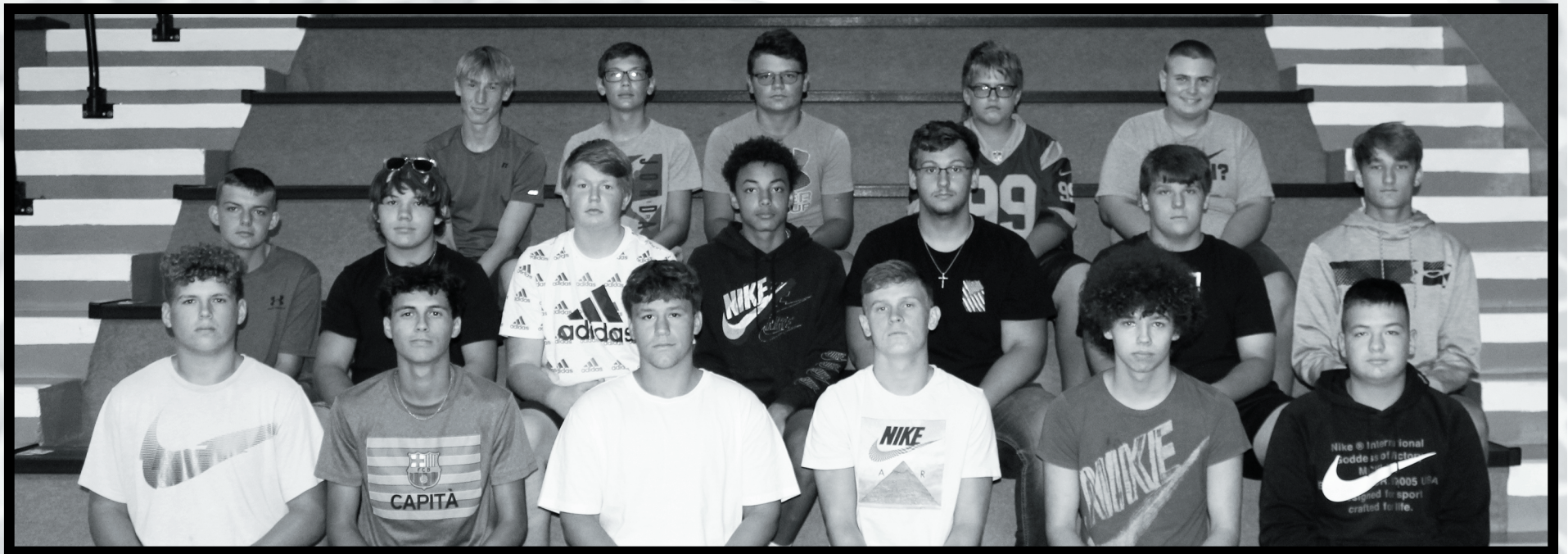
Goltz said to also look for Zachary Keithley, Peyton Doerr, Nicholas Keithley, Will Ewers, Matthew Neddenriep and Joe Simon to see significant action this season.

"We have to replace three very good, graduated seniors," said Goltz. We return several good players. We have a big senior class which will make us a mature team."

Sacred Heart will travel to defending Class D2 State Champion BDS on Friday, September 10. The Irish will open their season at home against Nebraska City Lourdes on Friday, August 27, at 7:00 p.m.



Wishing County Athletes
A Successful Season!



(L-R) **FRONT ROW:** Andrew Stalder, Nicolas Knudson, Aiden Worthey, Hunter Frey, Marcus Bratrsovsky and Lennox Pechmann-Sadlo **MIDDLE ROW:** Brennen Vaughan, Alex Koziol, Colt McClarnen, JJ McQueen, Ty Faulks, Dayton Eppens and Brandt Leech **BACK ROW:** Brogan Dunlap, Kiffen Hunzeker, Hunter Bohling, River McNeely and Jakob Manning (student manager)
STUDENTS NOT PICTURED: Ryken Davis and Roman Coats **HEAD COACH:** Caleb Lempka
ASSISTANT COACHES: Koalton Taiclet and Grant Tuttle

HTRS TITANS LOOK TO TURN THE CORNER



By Brian McKim (Photo Submitted)

After a rough 2020 season, the HTRS Titans are looking to get off on the right track in 2021. The Titans lost three starters last season in the opening three games and failed to rebound, finishing the campaign at 0-7. The Titans had one game versus Palmyra that was canceled due to COVID.

Head Coach Caleb Lempka, a 2014 Peru St. grad, will be entering his third season at the helm of the Titan program. Lempka's teams are 2-13 over his first two years but look for a marked improvement this season. Assisting Lempka on the sidelines this fall will be Kolton Taiclet and Grant Tuttle.

A large senior class will be looked upon to lead the Titans on the field this fall. Gone from last year's team are Jayden McNeely and Donovan Kostecka; both will be hard to replace. However, returning for Coach Lempka are seniors Aiden Worthey, Nic Knudson and Hunter Frey. According to Coach Lempka, Worthey, 5'9, 185lbs, will be a leader on the defensive side of the ball and the best overall player. Worthey has a nose for the ball and loves contact. Last season, in only five games, Worthey carried the ball 42 times for 370 yards and three TD's and made 84 tackles on defense. Worthey will take the field as the Titans fullback and middle linebacker.

Nic Knudson, a 6'0, 135lb senior, will fill the role of end and safety. Knudson played just two games last season due to injury but still led the Titans with nine catches for 204 yards and four touchdowns. Knudson is the best cover man for Coach Lempka and will likely return punts and kicks. Senior Hunter Frey, a 5'11 140lb end and defensive end, will look to provide high energy to HTRS. Frey flies to the ball and doesn't shy away from contact. Frey was the Titan's second-leading tackler last season (77 total stops) and is one of the better blocking ends on the team. This season, the Titans will also depend on senior Andy Stalder, a 6'0 210lb lineman and Ryken Davis, a 6'0, 230lb junior lineman.

The Titans return most of their team from a season ago; however, they will need to fill the quarterback and running back positions on offense. HTRS returns most of the linemen from last season on both sides of the ball, so they should supply plenty of experience upfront. The Titans will return five starters on the offensive side of the ball and bring back six on defense. Coach Lempka will employ the 3-3 on defense and the offense will be running the wishbone.

"Goals for this season are to improve on the little things and become more consistent across the board," said Coach Lempka. "We beat ourselves in many of the games last year with turnovers and blown assignments. Want to be more aggressive and be able to control the ball with our running game and hope to wear people down with our running attack."

HTRS kicks off the 2021 campaign on Friday, August 27, with a home contest against Southern. Last season the Titans fell to Southern 44-20 in the season-opener. If the Titans can stay healthy and get off to a quick start this season, they could become a threat to many teams in the area.

2021 TITAN FOOTBALL

Aug. 27	vs. Southern	Home	7 p.m.
Sept. 3	vs. Diller-Odell	Home	TBA
Sept. 10	vs. Thayer Cent.	Away	7 p.m.
Sept. 17	vs. Freeman	Away	TBA
Sept. 24	vs. JCC	Home	TBA
Oct. 1	vs. FC SH	Away	2:30 p.m.
Oct. 8	vs. Palmyra	Away	TBA
Oct. 14	vs. Lourdes Cent.	Home	7 p.m.

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(L-R) **FRONT ROW:** Courtney McClintock, Brylee Gilkerson, Madi Scholl
MIDDLE ROW: Mataya Wilcox, Christina Gilkerson, Madi Jones, Elyse Poppe, Hannah Collier, Kacy Brewer
BACK ROW: Coach Maggie Nelson, Coach Tayten O'Brien, Gabby Furrow, Kaitlyn Titus, Emilou Schulenberg, Izzy Armbruster, Emily Vitosh, Havyn Ruiz, Jordan Wilcox, Coach Haley Ruiz, Coach Trista Hutchings

FALLS CITY SOFTBALL Swings Into New Season

Story and Photo By Brian McKim

The torch has officially been passed on the Tiger softball field. After 20 years as the skipper of the Tiger softball program, Coach Joe Dunn has stepped down and Head Coach Trista Hutchings takes over. Hutchings, a co-head coach last season, enters year two with the Falls City program. Last season, FC finished the season with five wins against 23 losses, down from the 13-14 record in 2019. Assisting Coach Hutchings this season are Haley Ruiz (2nd year), Maggie Nelson (1st year) and Tayten O'Brien (1st year). The Lady Tigers will welcome back eight letter winners from a season ago and look to improve on the five wins from the 2020 campaign.

"The goal is to improve our record from last year, love playing the game and build team cohesion," said Hutchings. "Don't aspire to be the best on the team; aspire to be the best for the team."

Returning starters include senior infielder Brylee Gilkerson, senior infielder Madi Scholl and senior outfielder Courtney McClintock. Juniors back for another season are pitcher Kacy Brewer, catcher Madi Jones, utility Elyse Poppe, outfielder Hannah Collier, infielder Christina Gilkerson, infielder Chelssa Sells and outfielder Mataya Wilcox. Sophomores include infielder Havyn Ruiz and infielder Emily Vitosh. Jordan Wilcox, Izzy Armbruster, Emilou Schulenberg, Kaitlyn Titus, and Gabby Furrow will add depth to the team.

Falls City will miss Thayer Armbruster (.286 avg., 2HR, 12RBI), Abby Harms (.244 avg. 9 runs scored), Shaylee Dunlop and Sara Black (.365 avg., 7RBI, 12 runs scored).

Offensively, Coach Hutchings will look for some batters from last season to step up and for everyone to play heads-up softball.

"We are looking to improve our offensive team mentality," said Hutchings. Defensively, the Lady Tigers will be called upon to play hard, do their best and leave everything on the field. Coach Hutchings stressed maximum efforts on every play.

The Tigers will look forward to playing Nebraska City again this season and Waverly, their first home game of the season, on Monday, August 23. The Lady Tigers will host parent's night on September 21 against the Fairbury Jeffs and as usual, the Tigers look forward to competing against the Auburn Bulldogs.

With a bit of luck and hard work, Falls City will be looking to return to the State Tournament for the first time since the 2006 season.



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Aug. 19	vs. Nebraska City (JV, V)	Away	5/6:30 p.m.
Aug. 21	vs. Freeman Invite (V)	Lincoln	10 a.m.
Aug. 23	vs. Waverly (JV, V)	Home	4:30/6 p.m.
Aug. 24	vs. Auburn Tri (V)	Auburn	6/7:30 p.m.
Aug. 26	vs. Wymore Southern (JV, V)	Home	5/6:30 p.m.
Aug. 30	vs. Plattsmouth (JV, V)	Away	5/6:30 p.m.
Sept. 2	vs. Auburn/Freeman Tri (V)	Freeman	4:30/6/7:30 p.m.
Sept. 4	vs. Auburn Tourney (V)	Away	9 a.m.
Sept. 7	vs. Weeping Water (JV, V)	Home	4:30/6 p.m.
Sept. 11	vs. Falls City Invite (V)	Home	9 a.m.
Sept. 18	vs. Plattsmouth Invite (V)	Away	9 a.m.
Sept. 21	vs. Fairbury (JV, V) Parents Night	Home	4:30/6 p.m.
Sept. 23	vs. St. Joseph Lafayette (JV, V)	Home	4:30/6 p.m.
Sept. 25	vs. ECNC Tourney	Auburn	9 a.m.
Sept. 27	vs. Syracuse (JV, V)	Away	5/6:30 p.m.
Oct. 5 or 6	vs. Sub-Districts	Away	TBA
Oct. 8 or 9	vs. District Final	TBA	TBA
Oct. 13,14,15	State Tournament	TBA	TBA



Aug. 26	Auburn Invitational	4:30 p.m.
Sep. 4	Beatrice Invitational	9:30 a.m.
Sep. 9	Fairbury Invitational	4:30 p.m.
Sep. 16	Hiawatha, KS Invite	4 p.m.
Sep. 23	Falls City Invitational	4:30 p.m.
Sep. 24	Parents Night	6:30 p.m.
Sep. 27	Rock Port Invitational	5 p.m.
Oct. 1	Syracuse Invitational	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 5	ECNC Invite Malcolm	4 p.m.
Oct. 14	District Meet Class C	TBA
Oct. 22	State Meet Kearney	TBA

(L-R) FRONT ROW: Joe Vrtiska, Carson Bredemeier, Pressler Bruxellas, Lillian Thomas, Nia Crawford, Kyle Daake, Bryson Butrick.
BACK ROW Cayden Dunkhas, Alex McKim, Josh Brown, Blake Rolfe, Hayden Findlay, Elliana Bruxellas, Miley Crawford, Ava Armbruster
NOT PICTURED Ray Feek, Emmy Feek, Ethan Skjerva, Toby Romesser.



CROSS COUNTRY OFF AND RUNNING

Photo & Story By Brian McKim

The Falls City Tiger Cross Country teams are ready to navigate any course that can be thrown at them. Falls City will have 12 high school boys, eight high school girls and five junior high athletes competing this fall.

Gone from last year's squad are Brenna Leyden, Jared Hawley, Eli Bottom, Will Vitosh, Brock Hogue and Riley Kobza. Hawley was a two-time State Meet qualifier and Bottom finished in 57th place at last year's State Meet held at the Kearney Country Club.

In his 22nd year as the Head Coach of the Tigers cross country team, Coach Cody Hawley will have three senior boys to help lead the way, Ray Feek, Pressler Bruxellas and Carson Bredemeier. Senior girls providing leadership will be Nia Crawford and Emmy Lu Feek.

"Our district still has not been set for this fall," said Hawley. "We are ready to compete at a high level against wherever the NSAA sends us for districts."

Falls City, looking to end the drought, has not sent a girl's team to State since 1984 and the boys haven't qualified as a team since 1995. Over the past 22 seasons, since Hawley took the program over, 24 athletes have individually qualified for the State Cross Country Meet.

"We lost our top two boys runners and three senior leaders from last year's team," said Hawley. "The boys' team will be led by Joe Vrtiska, Alex McKim, Bryson Butrick, Ray Feek and newcomer Blake Rolfe. We are looking for the whole boy's team to make a big leap forward so the Tigers can continue to achieve high team places at every meet. There will be a nice battle with the boys' team to compete at the Varsity level each week."

Hawley commented, "the girls lose a wonderful leader in Brenna. The girl's team gained five new members. The girls' team will be led by Nia Crawford, Ava Armbruster and newcomers Lillian Thomas and Miley Crawford. They should be a fun group to watch in the team standing too. This group had been very self-motivated in the offseason and share the same goal of getting to Kearney."

Coach Hawley and assistant Coach Amanda Merz (sixth season) will look to change the training schedule a little this fall.

"The first week was definitely a challenge and the kids adapted well to the change and excessive heat," said Hawley. "We also added more hill running and implementing Hopi runs."

Falls City has a strong chance of sending multiple athletes to the State Meet in October if the runners hold themselves accountable and give each workout their fullest effort.

Falls City will begin the season at Auburn on Thursday, August 26, at 4:30 p.m. The Tigers will host the Falls City Invite on Thursday, September 23, at 4:30.

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NEBRASKA

2021 HUSKER SCHEDULE

Aug 28	vs. Illinois Fighting Illini	@ Champaign, IL	1 p.m.	ET	FOX
Sept. 4	vs. Fordham Rams	@ Lincoln, NE	12 p.m.	ET	BTN
Sept. 11	vs. Buffalo Bulls	@ Lincoln, NE	3:30 p.m.	ET	BTN
Sept. 18	vs. Oklahoma Sooners	@ Norman, OK	12 p.m.	ET	FOX
Sept. 25	vs. Michigan State Spartans	@ East Lansing, MI	TBA	ET	TBA
Oct. 2	vs. Northwestern Wildcats	@ Lincoln, NE	7:30 p.m.	ET	TBA
Oct. 9	vs. Michigan Wolverines	@ Lincoln, NE	TBA	ET	TBA
Oct. 16	vs. Minn. Golden Gophers	@ Minneapolis, MN	TBA	ET	TBA
Oct. 23					OFF
Oct. 30	vs. Purdue Boilermakers	@ Lincoln, NE	TBA	ET	TBA
Nov. 6	vs. Ohio State Buckeyes	@ Lincoln, NE	TBA	ET	TBA
Nov. 13					OFF
Nov. 20	vs. Wisconsin Badgers	@ Madison, WI	TBA	ET	ESPNnetwork
Nov. 26	vs. Iowa Hawkeyes	@ Lincoln, NE	1:30 p.m.	ET	BTN



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HUSKERS

CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM FOR HUSKER FOOTBALL

Story and Photos By Brian McKim

Heading into the final week before Nebraska football kicks off the 2021 Big 10 season, many questions are still left unanswered. Here's what we do know, Nebraska is coming off a 3-5 season, so there's really nowhere to go but up. Nebraska lost close contests at Iowa, Northwestern and against Minnesota. The Huskers lost those three games by a total of 21 points and could have easily finished at 6-2.

The schedule won't take it easy on the Big Red in 2021. A road game at Illinois on August 28 to open the season will be no cakewalk. Home contests against Northwestern and Michigan are considered toss-ups and games vs. Ohio St, Wisconsin and Iowa to close out the year will be a tough stretch to close the year. Nebraska plays its first home game on September 4, when they host the Fordham Rams at 11:00 a.m. at Memorial Stadium.

Head Coach, Scott Frost, enters his fourth season as the play-caller for the Big Red and sports a 12-20 record in his first three seasons. Coach Frost will rely on many holdover players who received an extra year of eligibility due to COVID last fall. Adrian Martinez will again take the reigns at QB. With plenty of experience, Martinez should be poised for a big season. The Huskers also have plenty of depth at receiver, with Omar Manning, Oliver Martin, Samori Toure and Zavier Betts getting most of the reps. Cam Jurgens, a center from Beatrice, will anchor the line of scrimmage and Austin Allen and Travis VoKolek will staff the TE position. An unknown will be the running back position. Transfer Markese Stepp looks to be ahead of the pack for now, but watch out for freshman Marvin Scott, Gabe Ervin Jr., Sevion Morrison and Jaquez Yant.

Ben Stille, JoJo Domann and Cam Taylor-Britt will provide plenty of leadership for the Blackshirts on the defensive side of the ball. Also, watch for Luke Reimer, Nick Henrich and Ty Robinson to flash the bones for the defense this fall.

With a bit of good luck, Nebraska shows all the signs of taking the next step forward and getting back to the postseason. A Bowl Game not only will allow Nebraska extra practice time, but it will also do wonders for recruiting. This year, a 7-5 season is attainable and would be considered a considerable move forward for the program.



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(L-R) (KNEELING) RaeAnn Thompson (SITTING) Chase Nolte, Josie Riggs, Lindsey McNeely (KNEELING) Reece McNeely. BACK ROW: Delaney Godemann, Paige Young, Lexi Brewer, Makinley Scholl, Ashleigh Kirkendall, Kaitlyn Kirkendall, Taylor Kreifels. (NOT PICTURED) Nevada West

TIGER VOLLEYBALL LOOKING TO TAKE NEXT STEP

Photo and Story By Brian McKim

The Falls City Tiger volleyball team is looking to build off of last season's record of 12-16. In early October last year, the Tigers had a season-best four-game winning streak and won two of three matches against rival Auburn. Unfortunately for Falls City, the Bulldogs swept FC in three sets in subdistricts last fall to end the season.

Head Coach Allison Haines enters her third season as the play-caller for Falls City. In her first two seasons, Haines has a combined record of 21-37. Assisting Haines this fall will be fourth-year coach Maygan Ramsey and Terri Hogue, who is in her third season as an assistant.

The Tigers have a solid group coming back with eight letter winners taking the court for Coach Haines. Returning for Falls City will be seniors Chase Nolte (middle blocker), Josie Riggs (outside hitter) and Lindsey McNeely (defensive specialist). Juniors returning are RaeAnn Thompson (middle blocker) and Reece McNeely (outside hitter). Sophomores back this fall are Ashleigh Kirkendall (setter/opposite), Lexi Brewer (libero/outside hitter), Makinley Scholl (setter/opposite) and Nevada West (opposite hitter). Freshmen looking to see action are Kaitlyn Kirkendall (middle/opposite), Paige Young (defensive specialist), Taylor Kreifels (opposite hitter) and Delaney Godemann (outside hitter).

Falls City will bring back much of their offense from last season and almost all of their stat leaders from 2020. The Tigers return a lot of experience and look for those players to make a significant impact in Coach Haines' 6-2 system.

continued to page 15

2021 TIGER VOLLEYBALL

Aug. 26 vs.	J-B/Southern Tri. (V)	Falls City	5 p.m.
Aug. 30 vs.	Plattsmouth (R, JV, V)	Away	5 p.m.
Sept. 02 vs.	HTRS/Johnson County Tri (V)	Falls City	5 p.m.
Sept. 07 vs.	Elmwood-Murdock (R, JV, V) Parents Night-FC		5 p.m.
Sept. 09 vs.	Sterling/Pawnee City Tri (V)	Sterling	5 p.m.
Sept. 13 vs.	Horton, Ks Quad (R)	Horton, Ks.	5 p.m.
Sept. 16 vs.	Auburn/Neb. City Tri (V)	Neb. City	5 p.m.
Sept. 20 vs.	Pawnee City/HTRS Tri (V)	Pawnee City	5 p.m.
Sept. 21 vs.	Weeping Water/Freeman Tri (V)	Weeping Water	5 p.m.
Sept. 23 vs.	Lourdes Central/Syracuse Tri (V)	Falls City	5 p.m.
Sept. 25 vs.	Wymore Southern Tourney (V)	Away	9 a.m.
Sept. 27 vs.	Horton Ks (JV, V)	Away	5 p.m.
Oct. 02 vs.	JCC Invite	Away	9 a.m.
Oct. 04 vs.	Falls City Reserve Tourney	Falls City	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 11,12,14	ECNC Tourney	Away	TBA
Oct 25,26	C-1 Sub Districts	Away	TBA
Oct. 30 C-1	District Finals	Away	TBA
Nov. 04,05,06	State Tourney	Lincoln	TBA

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LADY IRISH EAGER TO HIT THE COURT

Photo and Story By Brian McKim

The Falls City Sacred Heart Irish volleyball team came within one win of playing for the Class D2 State Championship last season at Pinnacle Bank Arena in Lincoln. The Lady Irish defeated Humphrey St. Francis in the opening round but fell to eventual champ Diller-Odell in three sets in the semifinals. The Irish then took down Maywood-Hayes Center in four sets to claim third place and finish the season with a 27-7 record.

Head Coach Emma Ebel enters her second season in charge of the Irish program and has set the bar high for the Lady Irish.

“As always, I have high expectations of this team; they have given me glimpses in the past of their overall athletic ability and grit,” said Ebel. “They have to remain disciplined, however, but if they show up and play the caliber of ball I know they are capable of, I have no doubt of their success.”

Assisting Coach Ebel on the court will again be fifth-year coach Abby Shubert and second-year volunteer coach Holly Westengaard.

Sacred Heart is coming off a stellar 2020 campaign that saw the Irish finish third at the MUDECAS Tourney, end Diller-Odell’s 42-game winning streak with a Pioneer Conference crown and win the third-place game over Maywood-Hayes Center at the State Tourney. Five of the Irish’s seven losses last season came to the 34-1 Diller-Odell Griffins.

This year, Coach Ebel will rely heavily on experience as nine letter winners return for action, with only Danielle Bippes lost to graduation.

“Danielle was my only senior last year and my middle blocker,” said

(L-R) **FRONT ROW:** Rachel Magdanz, Emma Frederick, Lauren Malone, Erison Vonderschmidt, Lainey Ebel, Taylor Frederick
MIDDLE ROW: DeLanie Witt, Jessica Wertenberger, London Nachtigal, Olivia Eickhoff, Macy Keller, Grace Malcolm
BACK ROW: Coach Holly Westengaard, Coach Abby Shubert, Jocelyn Olberding, Adisen Fischer, Jentry Lechtenberg, Addison Keller, Sadie Tisdell, Leila Frederick, Saylor Hutfles, Coach Emma Ebel



2021 IRISH VOLLEYBALL

Aug. 19	vs. Auburn Jamboree	Auburn	6:30 P.M.
Aug. 27	vs. Nebraska City Lourdes (JV, V)	Falls City	4:15 P.M.
Aug. 31	vs. Tri County (JV, V)	Falls City	5:30 P.M.
Sept. 4	vs. Weeping Water Tourney (V)	Weeping Water	TBA
Sept. 7	vs. Diller-Odell (JV, V)	Odell	5:30 P.M.
Sept. 9	vs. Sidney, Iowa (JV, V) Parents Night	Falls City	5:30 P.M.
Sept. 11	vs. HTRS Tourney (V)	Humboldt	TBA
Sept. 13,14,16	vs. MUDECAS Tournament	Beatrice	TBA
Sept. 21	vs. Pawnee City/Southern Tri (V)	Pawnee City	5:00 P.M.
Sept. 23	vs. Lewiston (JV, V)	Falls City	6:00 P.M.
Sept. 25	vs. Axtell Ks, Tourney (V)	Axtell	TBA
Sept. 27	vs. Savannah, Mo (JV, V)	Falls City	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 28	vs. Freeman (JV, V)	Adams	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 30	vs. Sterling (JV, V)	Sterling	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 5	vs. Rock Pork (JV, V)	Rock Port	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 11,12, 16	vs. Pioneer Conf. Tour. (V)	Falls City/Lewiston	TBA
Oct. 19	vs. HTRS/Johnson-Brock Tri (V)	Falls City	5:00 P.M.
Oct. 25,26	vs. D-2 Sub District		TBA
Oct. 30	vs. D-2 Sub-State Final		TBA
Nov. 4-6	vs. State Volleyball Tourney	Lincoln	TBA

continued to page 15

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2021 TITAN VOLLEYBALL

Aug. 24	vs.	Jamboree (Tri County & Sterling)	Tri County	5 p.m.
Aug. 31	vs.	Lewiston JV & Varsity	Lewiston HS	5 p.m.
Sept. 2	vs.	Falls City & JCC	Falls City	5 p.m.
Sept. 4	vs.	Weeping Water Invite	Weeping Water HS	9 a.m.
Sept. 7	vs.	Lourdes CC JV & Varsity	Lourdes HS	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 11	vs.	HTRS Invite	HTRS HS	8 a.m.
Sept. 13	vs.	MUDECAS	Beatrice	TBA
Sept. 14	vs.	MUDECAS	Beatrice	TBA
Sept. 16	vs.	MUDECAS	Beatrice	TBA
Sept. 21	vs.	Auburn JV & Varsity	HTRS HS	5 p.m.
Sept. 23	vs.	Cornerstone Christian & Brownell-Talbot	Kroc Center	5 p.m.
Sept. 28	vs.	Fairbury JV & Varsity	HTRS HS	5 p.m.
Oct. 2	vs.	JCC Invite	JCC HS	9 a.m.
Oct. 4	vs.	Falls City Tourney JV	Falls City HS	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 7	vs.	Diller-Odell & Pawnee City	Diller-Odell HS	5 p.m.
Oct. 9	vs.	JCC Tourney JV	JCC MS	9 a.m.
Oct. 11	vs.	Pioneer Conference Tourney		TBA
Oct. 12	vs.	Pioneer Conference Tourney		TBA
Oct. 16	vs.	Pioneer Conference Tourney		TBA
Oct. 19	vs.	FCSH & JB	Sacred Heart HS	5 p.m.
Oct. 21	vs.	Meridian JV & Varsity	HTRS HS	5 p.m.

(L-R) FRONT ROW: Aly Howe, Ellie Schardt and Jacey Leech **MIDDLE ROW:** Jaylie McNealy, Hannah Koziol, Avery Dierberger and Lily Wamsley **BACK ROW:** KayLee Jeralds, Ashton Bredemeier, Laramie Glathar, Macy Vrtiska, Jaylyn Bohling and Assistant Manager, PJ Howe **HEAD COACH:** Kara Engles **ASSISTANT COACHES:** Brittany Rogers and Nic Sikora

LADY TITANS LOOKING FOR RETURN TRIP TO STATE

By Brian McKim (Photo submitted)

The HTRS Titan volleyball is looking to improve upon its 2020 campaign. The Lady Titans finished with an impressive 20-11 final record, seeing their season end at the hands of the Johnson-Brock Eagles in three sets in subdistrict play. The Titans put together impressive five-game winning streaks twice last season, including the first five of the season.

Head Coach Kara Engles looks to add to her win total at HTRS. In 18 seasons, Engles sports a 300-216 record. Assisting Coach Engles this season will be Nic Sikora and Brittany Rogers.

The Lady Titans will be looking to make a return trip to Lincoln in November. HTRS last qualified for the State Tourney in 2019, finishing 24-9 that season and falling to eventual state champ Diller-Odell in the first round of the State Tournament.

Coach Engles will bring back five letterwinners but will miss Natalie Novak and Katilyn Glathar. Novak, a setter, and Glathar, a middle hitter, were first-team all-conference selections last season. Novak finished last season with 89 kills, 76 ace serves, 310 digs and 681 assists. Glathar led the team with 258 kills while adding 95 blocks and 320 digs.

HTRS has four returning starters for Coach Engles. Returners include Ellie Schardt, a 5'6, senior Libero and two-year starter. Also returning are Aly Howe, a 5'7 senior outside hitter with two years of starting experience; Jacey Leech, a 5'10 middle hitter with one year experience and Avery Dierberger, a 5'8 sophomore with one year experience.

Also, look for Jaylie McNealy, a 5'6 sophomore, Hannah Koziol, a 5'6 sophomore, Macy Vritska, a 5'10 freshman, and Laramie Glathar, 5'8 freshman, to contribute to the Titans success this fall on the court.

Offensively, the Titans will have some excellent hitters; the problem could lie with getting them the ball.

"We have been working really hard on passing and ball handling," said Coach Engles. "So hopefully, our offense will start to improve."

Defensively the Titans will have to be strong to run any kind of productive offense.

"We spend a lot of time on blocking, passing, coverages, etc. As the season approaches, hopefully, we can put it all together," said Engles.

The Titans will open the regular season on Tuesday, August 31, at Lewiston High School. The Titan's first home match will be the HTRS Invite on Saturday, September 11, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

"We will be a mix of experienced players and newcomers this year," said Engles. "We play a really tough schedule, so that's going to be a huge challenge for us. Each game will be a challenge for us."

If the Titans can get a few players to step up and fill roles, the season could end up quite successful.



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Aug. 26 vs. Syracuse Invite	Syracuse CC	9 a.m.
Sept. 3 vs. Tri County Invite	Hidden Acres	9 a.m.
Sept. 13 vs. Fairbury Invite	Fairbury CC	9 a.m.
Sept. 16 vs. JCC Invite	Tecumseh CC	9 a.m.
Sept. 20 vs. HTRS Invite	@Kirkmans Golf Course	4 a.m.
Sept. 27 vs. Auburn Invite	Auburn CC	9 a.m.
Sept. 30 vs. Linc. Christian Inv.	@Hidden Valley	9 a.m.
Oct. 4,5 vs. District		TBA
Oct. 11,12 vs. State		TBA

(L-R): Gracie Shafer, Mikkayla Flynn, Jacqueline Joyce, Ricki Long and Libby Standen
HEAD COACH: Matt Helms



HTRS GOLF HITTING THE COURSE

By Brian McKim (Photo Submitted)

The Humboldt Table Rock Steinauer Titans golf team is ready to hit the links for the 2021 season. Head Coach Matthew Helms has five girls teeing off for the Titans this fall, with two letter winners returning from the 2020 team, including the Titan's top golfer.

According to Coach Helms, "Gracie Shafer played well at districts last year but came up just short of qualifying for State. Our goal this year is to get her into the state tournament."

The Titans will also rely on Mikkayla Flynn to step up her game and improve from last season.

"Mikkayla made some huge improvements last year," said Helms. "She should be in the mix for some varsity medals this year and possibly another look at a state qualifier."

The Titans will have their work cut out for them on the courses this fall as they will compete in a tough district and against proven players all season long. Don't expect the Titan golfers to shy away from the challenge, instead look for them to take their opponents head-on and compete with fire.

"I'm hoping to be in the mix for some team plaques throughout the year as our younger players, Jackie Joyce and Ricki Long, work their way into the varsity role to fill out our team score," said Helms.

The Titans golfers will swing into competition on Thursday, August 26, in Syracuse, to open the season. HTRS will look to defend their home course on September 20 when they host the HTRS Invite at Kirkman's Lakeview Golf Course at 9:00 a.m.

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Irish Volleyball continued from page 12

Ebel. "I am going to miss her leadership going into this season!"

On the offensive side of the net, Ebel hopes to run a fast pace up-tempo offense.

"We have some pretty impressive firepower coming out of the middle with senior Erison Vonderschmidt and junior Olivia Eickhoff. I am planning to utilize that a lot," said Ebel.

Defensively, the Irish will look to be solid again and disciplined at all times.

Returning for the Irish will be senior Erison Vonderschmidt, a four-year starter. Vonderschmidt led the team with 419 kills last season, 96 blocks and 52 ace services. She was named MUDECAS first team, Pioneer Conference first team, All-State Class D2 and KMALAND Nebraska player of the year. Joining Vonderschmidt is fellow senior Rachel Magdanz, a four-year starter at setter. Magdanz was a Pioneer Conference third teamer, MUDECAS second-teamer and All-State honorable mention choice. Magdanz had 39 aces, 91 kills and 748 assists last year. Lauren Malone, a three-year starter at Libero, added 25 aces and 506 digs last season. Malone was named third-team all-conference. Lainey Ebel, a three-year starter outside, had 111 kills and 85 digs last year. Taylor Frederick, a three-year starter at outside hitter, had 128 kills and 21 aces last season and Olivia Eickhoff, a two-year starter, finished with 123 kills.

Also, look for Emma Frederick, DeLanie Witt, Macy Keller and Jessica Wertenberger to provide essential minutes off the bench.

The Irish begin the season on Friday, August 27, when they host Lourdes Central Catholic.

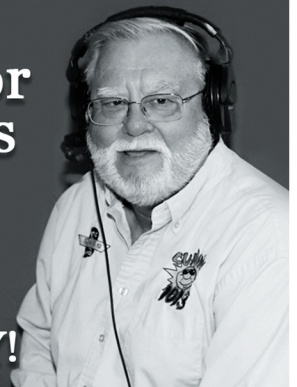


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Tiger Volleyball continued from page 11

On the defensive side of the net, FC will look to serve and pass. "We had a great serve game last season and it caused a lot of problems for our opponents," said Haines. "We want to be aggressive at the service line. We have focused a lot on serve receive this summer. This is the part of the game that will dictate how successful we will be this season."

Haines looks to start Nolte, a two-year starter, Reece McNeely (two-year starter), Kirkendall (one-year starter), Scholl (one-year starter), Brewer (one-year starter) and Riggs (two-year starter) to fill the court to begin the year. Also, look for Lindsey McNeely (one-year starter) to come off the bench as a back-row specialist. Gone from last season are Eryn Snethen, an outside hitter and Ava Morgan, a defensive specialist.

"Our goal for this season is to be competitive each and every game. After finishing just shy of the .500 mark last season, our goal is to be above that number this season. With almost every starter returning, a great summer effort and all of the stat leaders returning, we have all the ingredients to be successful. We played very well in tournaments all season and have goals to be in the top three at every one of those, including a very competitive ECNC conference," said Haines.


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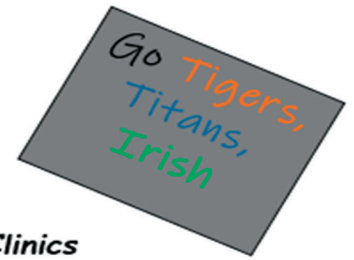


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-Babe Ruth

Good luck to all athletes! Work HARD and have FUN!!!

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