

HIGH SCHOOL 2022 PREVIEW FALL SPORTS



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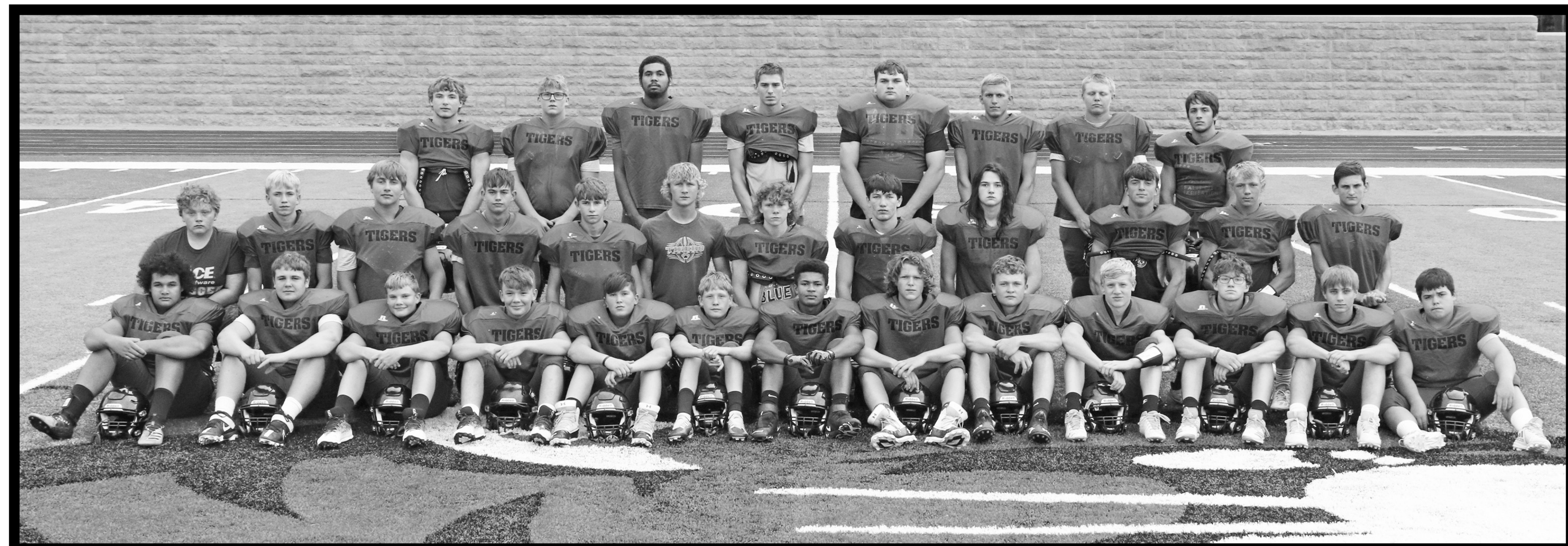
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(L-R) **FRONT ROW:** Matthew Eaton, Chase Simpson, Ryker Jones, Jayden Mirelez, Zavier Ebel, Cade Caudle, Devon Smith, Brock Niedfeldt, Vaden Leyden, Blakely Sells, Mason Collier, Gavin Bauer, Ashton Martin **MIDDLE ROW:** Caleb Zimmerman, Preston Buckminster, Derek Helmick, Chase Brown, Kaedyn Courtney, Wyatt Olberding, Kaleb Zulkoski, Robert Gilkerson, Leo Lendermon, Issac Frederick, Tate Wilcox, Tegan Alexander **BACK ROW:** Daniel Hollens, Zane Ebel, Stiephan Fields, Jaxyn Strauss, Jon Craig, Kellen McAfee, Kemper Foster, Kadyne Strecker

2022 TIGER FOOTBALL				
W/L • Score				
	Aug. 26	vs. Platteview	Home	7 p.m.
	Sept. 2	vs. Fairbury	Away	TBA
	Sept. 9	vs. Concordia	Home	7 p.m.
	Sept. 16	vs. Boys Town	Away	TBA
	Sept. 23	vs. Syracuse	Home	TBA
	Sept. 30	vs. Nebraska City	Home	7 p.m.
	Oct. 7	vs. Lincoln Christian	Away	7 p.m.
	Oct. 14	vs. Auburn	Home	7 p.m.
	Oct. 21	vs. Raymond Central	Away	7 p.m.

OPTIMISM HIGH FOR YOUNG TIGER FOOTBALL TEAM

Story and Photo By Brian McKim

The Falls City football team has worked hard since last fall, hoping to improve upon their 1-8 record from a season ago. Head Coach Jack Bangert replaces Coach Darin Fritz, who led the Tigers into battle for ten seasons. Bangert has 12 of experience on the sidelines as an assistant coach at Omaha South but will hit the field at the end of August for the first time as Head Coach.

The Tiger's only win last fall came against the Fairbury Jeffs, 28-20, but this young Tiger group won't harp on the eight losses. Coach Bangert and Co. will have a lot of shoes to fill this fall after losing seven seniors that contributed on the field. Gone are Carson Simon, Jaden Nolte, Rayce Farmer, Thomas Fields, Dalton Helmick, Justin Brewer and Cameron Schramm. The Tiger staff will lean heavily on the four seniors on the roster, along with a couple of juniors and sophomores.

Back this fall will be a senior receiver and outside linebacker, Jaxyn Strauss. Strauss, a gifted athlete, works hard on and off the field and will be one of Falls City's biggest playmakers.

The big man up front will be Jon Craig. Craig, a guard and nose tackle, is a big, dedicated lineman and one of the squad's hardest workers. Craig only missed one day in the weight room this summer and his hard work will pay dividends on both lines.

The third senior is Kellen McAfee, a center and Mike linebacker. Bangert said McAfee is a tough, vocal athlete who will give his all on every play throughout the game.

The final returning senior is a defensive end and tackle, Stiephan Fields. Fields is a long athlete with excellent footwork. Fields had a great build for a left tackle and according to the coaches, he's one of the fastest players on the team.

A pair of juniors will contribute this fall, with Kadyne Strecker and Wyatt Olberding hitting the gridiron. Strecker, slotted at receiver and inside linebacker, is a great route runner with good hands and Olberding, an H-back and outside linebacker, is described as a tough, hard-nosed wrestler who plays football.

The sophomores looking to make noise are Tate Wilcox and Isaac Frederick. Wilcox, penciled in at quarterback and defensive back, is athletic with quick feet and a strong arm. Frederick will split time between the backfield and receiver and be slotted as an outside linebacker on defense. Frederick has been praised for his excellent hands, good speed, and athleticism.

Falls City will be looking to reach the postseason for the first time since 2014. Assisting Bangert on the sidelines will be Quentin Coatney (4th year), Nick Kraft (10th year), Ryan Nolte (12th year), Tom Weinert (30th year), Blake Amador (1st year), Brandon Sells (3rd year), Josh McCampbell (5th year) and Terry Clark (3rd year).

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(L-R) **FRONT ROW:** Sam Dunn, Gavin Lechtenberg, Evan Keithley, Carson Sells, Matthew Neddenriep, Riley Nelson, John Crouse, Manager: JT Stice **MIDDLE ROW:** Quincy Koelliker, Connor Nelson, Brenden Lemerond, Kyler Sipple, Cole Taft, Rob Froeschl, Clayton Keithley, Caleb Kirkendall, Gavin Clow, Henry Rottinghaus, Ethan Neddenriep **BACK ROW:** Evan Bailey, Alex Madsen, Cooper Knobbe, Joe Simon, Jack Stice, Vaughn Lenard, James Froeschl, Elijah Canonico, Thomas Aitken

Irish seeking 36th consecutive playoff appearance

Story and Photo By Brian McKim

The Falls City Sacred Heart Irish football team will be looking to add to an impressive stretch of making the postseason in 8-man football for a 36th straight season. The Irish have qualified for the playoffs every year since 1987. During that stretch Head Coach Doug Goltz has compiled a 335-58 record, won eight state titles, including six in a row during a state record 87 consecutive winning streak.

Joining Goltz on the sidelines this fall will be Luke Santo, Brian Lemerond, Garrett Haring and Jarod Fiegenger.

The Irish fell to eventual champion Kenesaw 62-56 in the second round of the NSAA Class D2 playoffs last fall, finishing the season 8-2. After dropping the season opener to Lourdes Central Catholic, the Irish went on to win eight straight games, outscoring opponents 467-131 during that stretch. SH led Kenesaw by as many as 22 points, 44-22, early in the third quarter before the Blue Devils made a comeback and sealed the win with a touchdown with 1:29 remaining to go in front 62-50.

Coach Goltz will have his work cut out for him this fall as he has to find a way to replace ten letterwinners from last year's team. This isn't something new for Goltz though, he seems to find players to plug in and take over roles on the field. The Irish will return only three starters on the offensive and defensive side of the ball.

Back this fall for the Irish are seniors Evan Keithley and Sam Dunn and junior Joe Simon. Keithley, a 170-pound running back/linebacker, ran for 445 yards and had 495 yards receiving last season. Keithley had a break-out game against Kenesaw in the finale, catching eight passes for 300 yards and four touchdowns. Dunn will be moving from wide receiver to quarterback this season. The 160-pound senior had six catches for 55 yards a year ago. Simon, a 190-pound tight end/defensive end caught 11 passes for 212 yards and had 57 tackles on defensive in 2021.

SH will be replacing some firepower from the last couple of seasons. Gone are QB Jakob Jordan, receiver Jake Froeschl, running back Tyler Catlin, linemen Brogan Nachtigal, Derek Schawang and Zachary and Nicholas Keithley.

Offensively, Jordan ran for 1023 yards and 25 scores while passing for 1232 yards and 25 TDs. Froeschl added 23 receptions for 436 yards and ten scores and Catlin had 292 yards rushing on 54 attempts.

Defensively, Nachtigal had 89 stops, including 11 tackles for loss. Schawang added 45 tackles, 11 for losses, Catlin had 77 stops, Froeschl had 48 tackles and Jordan added 35.

Goltz will look to Jack Stice, a 160-pound junior, Riley Nelson, a 175-pound senior and James Froeschl, a 160-pound junior to fill some holes on offense. At the line of scrimmage, the Irish will need 240-pound junior Vaughn Lenard, 245-pound senior Matthew Neddenriep, 235-pound sophomore Evan Bailey and 185-pound sophomore Caleb Kirkendall to plug the gaps.

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W/L • Score	2022 IRISH FOOTBALL		
	Aug. 26	Elmwood-Murdock	Peru State 7 pm
	Sept. 2	Lawrence-Nelson	Falls City 7 pm
	Sept. 9	Nebraska Lutheran	Waco 7 pm
	Sept. 16	Diller-Odell – Parents Night 7 pm	
	Sept. 23	BDS	Bruning 7 pm
	Sept. 30	HTRS	Humboldt 7 pm
	Oct. 7	Jo-Brock – Homecoming FC	7 pm
	Oct. 13	Neb. City Lourdes	Neb. City 7 pm

Froeschl
Floors

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(L-R) **FRONT ROW:** Peio Uribe Rodriguez, Ryken Davis, Brandt Leech, Ty Faulks, Arthur Penission. **BACK ROW:** Jon Koch, Hunter Bohling, Emmet Glathar, Colt McClarnen, Brogan Dunlap, Brennen Vaughan, Alex Koziol, JJ McQueen, Dayton Eppens, Levi Koch, River McNeely, Carson Refsdal, Kiffen Hunzeker **NOT PICTURED:** Clayton Howe, Jon Church

W/L • Score	2022 TITAN FOOTBALL		
	Aug. 26	@ Omaha Brownell Talbot	7 pm
	Sept. 2	vs. Deshler	7 pm
	Sept. 9	vs. Southern	3 pm
	Sept. 16	@ Johnson-Brock	7 pm
	Sept. 23	@ Diller-Odell	3 pm
	Sept. 30	vs. FC SH	7 pm
	Oct. 7	vs. Lourdes Cent. Catholic	7 pm
	Oct. 13	@ BDS	7 pm

TITAN FOOTBALL EXCITED TO BUILD OFF 2021

By Brian McKim (Photo Submitted)

The 2021 Humboldt Titan football season ended with six consecutive losses, but HTRS Coach Caleb Lempka will be looking to capitalize on senior Brandt Leech's strong performance in 2021 to help propel the Titans to more wins on the field.

"He was able to set many career records in just one season at the helm as starting QB," said Coach Lempka. "We are a run-first team but will not be scared to throw the ball when needed."

Coach Lempka enters his fourth season as the play caller for the Titans and sports a 4-19 record, including a 2-6 mark a season ago. Assisting Lempka will be Koalton Taiclet and Grant Tuttle, both entering their second season with the program.

HTRS opened the 2021 campaign with two big wins over Southern (62-18) and Diller-Odell (52-44) before dropping the final six contests.

The Titan offense averaged over 31 points per game last fall; however, the defense surrendered 59 points per contest, allowing teams to eclipse 70 three times.

"Our defense last year was a big area of concern giving up over 60 points in five of our six losses," said Lempka. "Defensive assignment knowledge and intensity and aggressiveness will be big points of emphasis this year as we hope to get back on track and have a defense we can trust and rely on."

The Titans will have their work cut out for them but have the luxury of eight returning starters on at least one side of the ball. Gone from last season are Nic Knudson (36 catches for 605 yards), Aiden Worthey (452 yards rushing on 84 attempts and 91 tackles) and Andy Stalder (18 tackles in 4 games.)

The Titans return a trio of linemen with great experience. Ryken Davis will enter his third season starting at guard and nose tackle. Coach Lempka said Davis is the leader of the offensive and defensive line. "Probably the hardest working lineman on the team," said Lempka. "Really looking to see him dominate the offensive and defensive lines this year."

Ty Faulks will begin his second year starting at center and Lempka expects good things on both sides of the ball from Faulks. "He's a big kid," said Lempka. "He has improved a lot since starting in the program."

The third lineman is junior Alex Koziol, a second-year starter at guard and defensive end/middle linebacker. Lempka lists Koziol as a tough kid who can play many offensive positions (guard/fullback/end) and will look to him as a leader on the defensive side of scrimmage.

At the quarterback position, the Titans will lean on the arm of Leech to lead them to the promised land. Leech set career records in only one season as

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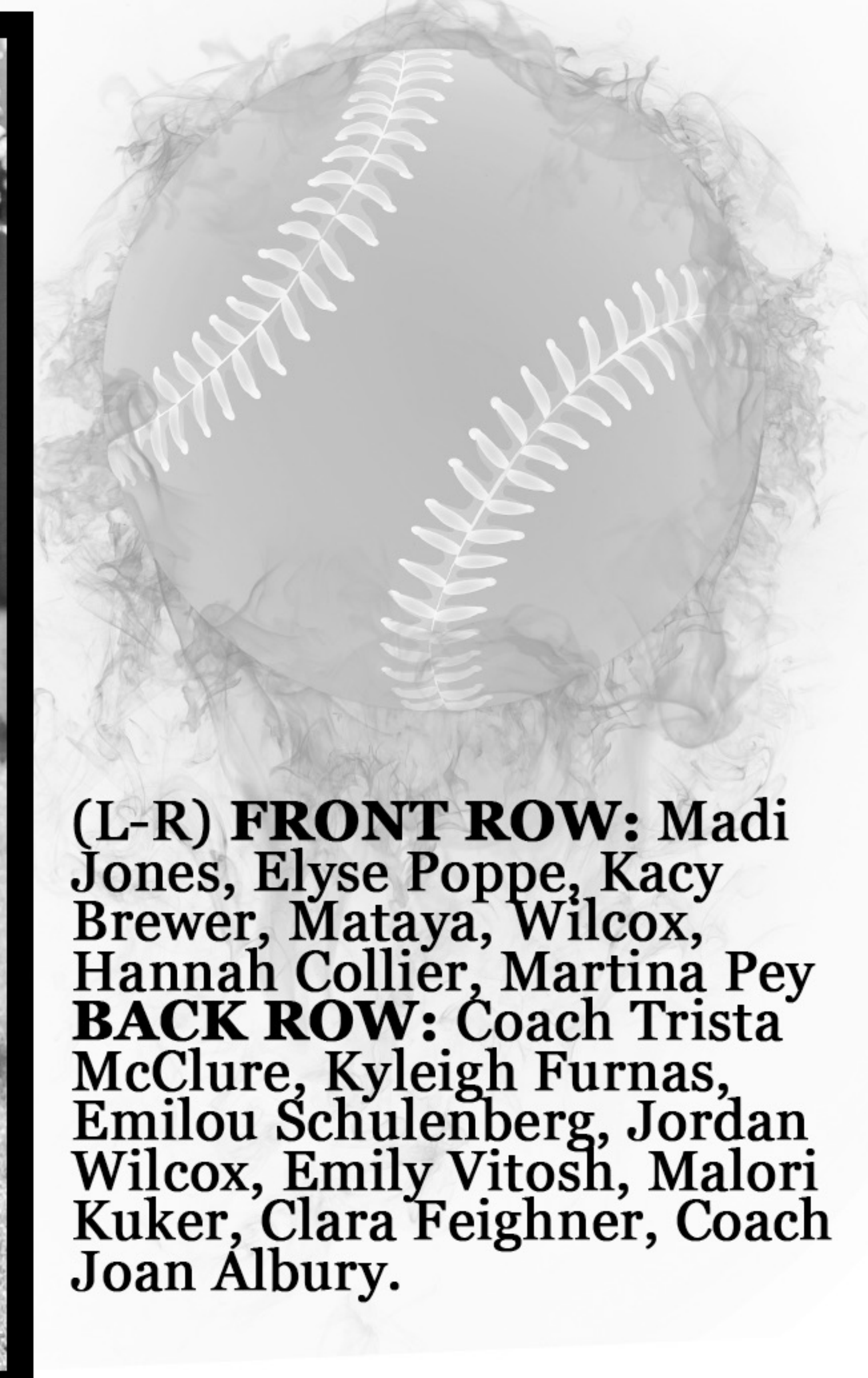
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Good Luck County Athletes on the Upcoming Season!

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(L-R) FRONT ROW: Madi Jones, Elyse Poppe, Kacy Brewer, Mataya Wilcox, Hannah Collier, Martina Pey
 BACK ROW: Coach Trista McClure, Kyleigh Furnas, Emilou Schulenberg, Jordan Wilcox, Emily Vitosh, Malori Kuker, Clara Feighner, Coach Joan Albury.

2022 TIGER SOFTBALL TEAM IS SMALL BUT MIGHTY

Story By Brian and Photo By Chelsie Alexander

The Falls City Tiger softball team heads into the third season under the watchful eyes of Head Coach Trista McClure. Last fall, the Tigers finished with a winning record, 15-14, and picked up some big wins along the way. FC took down good teams in Weeping Water, Lakeview and the Auburn Bulldogs. Five of Falls City's 14 losses were by four runs or less last season.

Assisting Coach McClure will be Joan Albury and Tayten O'Brien.

The Tigers will return a lot of experience with five seniors and two juniors on the roster.

All-Conference and second-team Class C all-state catcher Madi Jones will return this fall. Jones put up video game-type numbers last fall, batting an incredible .659 with 14 home runs and 51 RBI. Behind the plate, Jones threw out seven would-be base stealers in 139 innings of action.

Kacy Brewer, a pitcher and infielder and Elyse Poppe, an outfielder and infielder, were second-team all-conference players last year. Brewer batted .389 with four home runs and 17 runs batted in for the Tigers. Brewer logged 99 innings in the circle, winning six of nine contests and finishing with a 6.36 ERA.

Poppe was second on the team last fall with 40 hits, batting .430 with 12 doubles and 15 runs driven in while swiping a team-high 14 stolen bases. Poppe also pitched 45 innings, going 4-4 with a 6.00 earned run average. Also back in the fold will be senior outfielder Hannah Collier. Collier was named to the ECNC all-conference honorable mention team. Collier batted .338 last fall, swatting 27 hits, 19 singles and scoring 26 runs. Collier was second on the team last year, drawing 12 walks and successfully stealing seven bases on nine attempts. Falls City also returns senior Mataya Wilcox, juniors Emily Vitosh, Jordan Wilcox, and sophomore Emilou Schulenberg. Coach McClure is also looking for freshmen Clara Feighner, Malori Kuker and Kyleigh Furnas to contribute.

FC will miss three players lost to graduation in Brylee Gilkerson, Madi Scholl and Courtney McClintock. Gilkerson, an honorable mention all-conference selection, batted .347 with 17 hits, 13 RBI and nine stolen bases. Scholl

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W/L • Score		2022 TIGER SOFTBALL	
Aug. 18	vs. Nebraska City (JV, V)		5/6:30 p.m.
Aug. 20	@ Freeman Invite (V) Lincoln		9 a.m.
Aug. 23	vs. Aub-Wilber-Clatonia Tri (V)	4:30/6/7:30 p.m.	
Aug. 25	@ Wymore Southern (V)		5 p.m.
Aug. 27	@ Syracuse Tournament (V)		9 a.m.
Aug. 30	vs. Freeman (JV, V)		4:30/6 p.m.
Sept. 3	@ Auburn Tournament (V)		9 a.m.
Sept. 6	@ Mid-Buchanan (V, JV)		4:30/6 p.m.
Sept. 10	vs. FC Invitational (V)		9 a.m.
Sept. 13	vs. Plattsmouth (JV, V) Parents Night		5/6:30 p.m.
Sept. 17	@ Plattsmouth Tourn (V)		9 a.m.
Sept. 20	@ Fairbury (JV, V)		4:30/6 p.m.
Sept. 22	@ St. Joseph Lafayette (JV, V)		4:30/6 p.m.
Sept. 24	vs. ECNC Tourney		9 a.m.
Sept. 26	vs. Syracuse (JV, V)		5/6:30 p.m.
Oct. 3	vs. Sub- Districts	TBA	TBA
Oct. 7 or 8	vs. District Final	TBA	TBA
Oct. 12,13,14	State Tournament @ Hastings		TBA



2022 Tiger Cross Country

Aug. 25	Auburn Invite	5 p.m.
Sep. 3	Beatrice Invite	9 a.m.
Sep. 8	Fairbury Invite	4 p.m.
Sep. 15	Hiawatha, KS Invite	4 p.m.
Sep. 22	Falls City Invite	4:30 p.m.
Sep. 26	Rock Port Invite	5 p.m.
Sep. 30	Syracuse Invite	10 a.m.
Oct. 4	Auburn Invite	4 p.m.
Oct. 13	Districts	TBD
Oct. 21	State in Kearney	TBD

(L-R) **FRONT ROW:** Middle School - Jennifer Sweeney, Indea Holman, Madalynn Hawley, Skylan Stroebel, Riylan Stroebel, Gabby Young, High School - Miley Crawford, Guila Bosisio, Elliana Bruxellas, Dumoa Othman **MIDDLE ROW:** Lathan Richey (middle), Talon Zimmerman, Ryker McCullough, Bailey Thimmes, Rome West, Tanner Jackson(middle), Emmett Daake **BACK ROW:** Blake Rolfe, Alex McKim, Caden Dunkhaus, Bryson Butrick, Josh Brown, Kiefer Adams, Kyle Daake, Dylan Stroebel, Nathan Stroebel, Hayden Findlay



TIGER RUNNERS EAGER TO HIT THE COURSE

Photo submitted & Story By Brian McKim

The Falls City cross-country teams have done the work all summer and are now ready to prove themselves in competition. Tiger runners have been participating in “Kool-Aid” runs since June. The runs during the summer are not mandatory but are very important when it comes to the advancement of the athletes in the fall. Four Tiger runners also spent a day in June at the Ashland-Greenwood Cross Country Camp. College coaches Matt Beisel (Concordia), Derek Frey (College of St. Mary) and Dan Gerber (Midland University) were on hand to work with the high school runners. Ryker McCullough (winner of the fun run), Alex McKim, Kyle, and Emmett Daake participated in the camp.

Coach Cody Hawley enters his 23rd season in charge of the Tiger runners and Amanda Merz will be beginning her seventh year as an assistant. Over the years, Coach Hawley has produced 25 state meet qualifiers, with five runners medaling in Kearney.

The Tiger runners return five total letter winners, four boys and one girl. The Tiger boys return their three top runners from last fall, Blake Rolfe, Alex McKim and Bryson Butrick.

“We look for them to make a nice jump forward in time and positions at races,” said Coach Hawley. The Lady Tigers have only one runner this fall, sophomore Mylie Crawford. “Mylie had a great freshman season; I look for her to be in the medal hunt at several meets this fall,” said Hawley.

The Tigers lose a great group of runners from a year ago. Gone are Lillian Thomas, a state meet qualifier, Nia Crawford, Emmy Feek, Carson Brede-meier, Pressler Bruxellas, Ray Feek and Joe Vrtiska.

FC has some talented freshmen runners who could make solid contributions throughout the 2022 campaign. Ryker McCullough and Talon Zimmerman possess the tools to compete at a high level this fall.

“At this time, we will have a lone representative for the girls’ team,” said Hawley. “She will compete at a high level. The boy’s team struggled to find a leader in the 2021 season. There are several on the team this year that can fill that role. We will be much improved in the team standings.”

Last fall, the boys won the Falls City Invitational while the girls were first at Auburn, FC and Rock Port while finishing third in Fairbury, Hiawatha and the ECNC Meet.

Falls City will compete in the Class C-1 district against Ashland-Greenwood, Conestoga, Lincoln Christian, Lincoln Lutheran, Louisville, Malcolm, Milford, Raymond Central, Syracuse and Wilber-Clatonia.

Falls City opens the year on Thursday, August 25, at the Auburn Country Club. The Tigers will host the FC Invitational on Thursday, September 22 and will be back in Auburn on Tuesday, October 4, for the ECNC Meet. The district meet site has yet to be announced but will take place on Thursday, October 13.

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Tiger Softball continued from page 6

batted .377 with 20 hits, one home run, 11 RBI and 14 runs scored. McClintock batted .388 a season ago with 26 hits, 20 RBI and 16 runs scored.

"We have a large senior class with some great leadership and talent," said Coach McClure. "We are looking forewarned to matching or bettering our record from the previous year. We are hoping to work our way into some postseason play. The girls have worked hard in the summer and utilizing these few weeks to get ready to play."

Offensively this fall, Falls City will return some strong hitters and will need to continue to grow and produce as hitters. Defensively, Coach McClure said FC will need to continue to put in the hard work, never give up and take each game one pitch at a time.

Falls City opened the 2022 campaign by hosting Nebraska City on Thursday, August 18. Parents Night will be on Tuesday, September 13 and sub-districts begin on Monday, October 3. "The girls are so amazing," said McClure. "They have decided to host a suicide awareness game on August 30 against Freeman at home. They wanted to bring awareness to an issue that hit their school and many of their lives and are hoping to 'Strike out the Stigma.'"



Best Wishes For A Successful Season!

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(L-R)
FRONT ROW: Lexi Brewer, Reece McNeely, RaeAnn Thompson, Ashleigh Kirkendall-
MIDDLE ROW: Izzy Armbruster, Paige Young, Katelynn Titus, Taylor Kreifels, Kaitlyn Kirkendall, Delaney Godemann
BACK ROW: Ella Glathar, Elizabeth Vice, Carlea Dunkhas



WITH EXPECTATIONS HIGH, LADY TIGERS READY FOR ALL COMERS

Photo submitted and Story By Brian McKim

Head Coach Allison Haines begins her fourth season in charge of the Tiger volleyball team and sports a career record of 45-44. Assisting Coach Haines will be Terri Hogue (4th year) and first-year coach Bekah Miller. Falls City is coming off a school record 24-7 season that ended with the Tigers hosting sub-districts at a jammed-packed McIntyre-Fieldhouse. The Tigers may have fallen to Fairbury in the subdistrict finals, but they will use what they learned on the court last fall to continue to grow as a team.

“Last season, we set a goal to have a winning record and we achieved that,” said Coach Haines. “Coming off a record-breaking season is tough; the expectations are high and everyone wants to know what you are going to do next.”

Falls City will return five letter winners on the court when the season begins in August. Reese McNeely, a three-year starter at middle hitter; RaeAnn Thompson, a three-year starter at outside hitter; Ashleigh Kirkendall, a two-year starter as the setter; Lexi Brewer, a two-year starter at libero and Paige Young. McNeely finished the 2021 year with 180 kills, Thompson added 162, Kirkendall finished with 591 assists and Brewer added 386 digs.

Kirkendall will eclipse 1000 career assists early in the 2022 campaign as she is only 25 away from the mark. She also enters the season needing 258 assists to set a new school record.

“Our offensive attack will look a bit different this year,” said Haines. “We return two of our main offensive threats from the previous year. There will be new faces on the court this fall and we will look to our upperclassmen for leadership.”

Haines will have to replace three athletes that the Tigers lost to graduation. Gone are Chase Nolte (87 blocks, 156 kills), Josie Riggs (80 digs, 37 blocks) and Lindsey McNeely (25 ace serves, 91 digs, 166 serves received).

Defensively, Falls City will rely on a solid serve game that gave opponents issues last season.

“The whole game of volleyball depends on serve and pass,” said Haines. “Without these two skills, you will not win many games. We had a great serve game last season, and it caused a lot of problems for our opponents. We want to be aggressive at the service line. This group of girls is very scrappy and picks up a lot of balls and will depend on our blockers and defense to lead our offense.”

Falls City opens the season on the road on Thursday, August 25, for a triangular against Johnson-Brock and Southern at Southern High School. The Tiger's home opener is slated for Monday, August 29, when FC hosts

Plattsmouth, with action beginning at 5:00 pm. The Lady Tigers will be a talented squad this fall and should challenge the school record number of wins set just a year ago. “Our goals have not changed,” said Haines. “We want to go out and compete every time we step on the court. Our team wants to be one of the top teams in the conference and be in the hunt to host sub-districts again this year. With many new players playing varsity volleyball for the first time, there will be some learning curves. I am very lucky to have such great upperclassmen with a ton of varsity experience to lead this team.”

The Tigers were an impressive 11-3 in front of the Falls City faithful last fall and they will try for a repeat of last season's home dominance.

W/L • Score	2022 TIGER VOLLEYBALL		
	Aug 22	@ JCC/Lewiston (V) Jamboree	5:00 PM
	Aug 25	@ J-B/Southern Tri. (V)	4:00 PM
	Aug 29	vs Plattsmouth (R, JV, V) "Parents Night"	5:00 PM
	Sep 01	@ HTRS/Johnson County Tri (V)	5:00 PM
	Sep 06	@ Elm.-Murdock (R, JV, V)	5:00 PM
	Sep 08	vs Sterling/Pawnee City Tri. (V)	5:00 PM
	Sep 12	@ Hiawatha Reserve Quad	
	Sep 15	@ Auburn/Nebraska City Tri. (V)	5:00 PM
	Sep 19	vs PawneeCity/HTRS Triangular (JV)	5:00 PM
	Sep 20	vs Weeping Water/Freeman Tri. (V)	5:00 PM
	Sep 22	@ NE City Lourdes/Syracuse Tri (V)	5:00 PM
	Sep 24	@ Wymore Southern Tourney (V)	9:00 AM
	Sep 26	vs Horton, KS (JV, V)	5:00 PM
	Oct 01	@ Johnson County Invitational (V)	9:00 AM
	Oct 03	vs Falls City Reserve Tournament	4:00 PM
	Oct 06	@ Conestoga (JV, V)	5:00 PM
	Oct 08	vs Falls City Invitational Tourn (V)	9:00 AM
	Oct.10,11,13	@ ECNC Tournament	TBD
	Oct 18	@ East Atchison,Mo (JV,V)	5:30 PM
	Oct 24,25	C-1 Sub Districts	TBA TBA
	Oct 29	C-1 District Finals	TBA TBA
	Nov 3 - 6	State Tournament @Lincoln	TBA

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IRISH VOLLEYBALL WILL HAVE SOME BIG SHOES TO FILL



Photo and Story By Brian McKim

The defending Class D-2 state champions will have a lot of holes to fill on the court this fall; however, Coach Emma Ebel will look to have Sacred Heart right back in the hunt come November.

Ebel, entering her third season with the Irish, has an unbelievable 62-9 record with a state title and a third-place finish under her belt. In her two seasons, the Irish have won a pair of Pioneer Conference titles with two district titles.

Last fall, the Irish finished 35-2 with the season culminating in a five-set win over Humphrey St. Francis at the Devaney Center. Assisting Coach Ebel for her fifth season will be Abby Shubert and Holly Westengaard will be entering her third season.

The Irish lost Lainey Ebel, Emma Frederick, Lauren Malone, Taylor Frederick, Rachel Magdanz and Erison Vonderschmidt. Vonderschmidt and Magdanz were both first-team Class D2 All-State players. Vonderschmidt led the team with 368 kills and 46 blocks, while Magdanz added 394 assists, 144 kills and 50 ace serves.

The cupboard isn't bare for the Irish, though, as Sacred Heart returns Olivia Eickhoff, DeLanie Witt and London Nachtigal. Eickhoff had 150 kills and 15 blocks last fall, Witt added 308 assists and 122 digs and Nachtigal had 57 kills and four blocks. Eickhoff enters her third season starting for the Irish and will be an excellent threat for Coach Ebel offensively and defensively. According to Ebel, Witt, a two-year starter, has worked hard to get to where she's at and Nachtigal, a second-year starter, will bring a lot to the table with her athleticism.

A significant addition for the Irish this year on the court is junior Makinley Scholl, a transfer from Falls City Public. Last year for the Tigers, Scholl had a team-high 204 kills, 41 ace serves and 337 digs. Ebel is happy to have Scholl on the roster, "I'm looking for her to do great things for me at the outside position all the way around."

The Irish will also rely on Jentry Lechtenberg, Saylor Hutfles, Macy Keller and Jessica Wertenberger. Lechtenberg will be called upon to help in the setting position, Hutfles will be used primarily on defense, Keller can expect significant action at the OH position, and Wertenberger will see the right side of the court all season long.

"I have high hopes for this crew," said Ebel. "The athletic ability is

continued to page 15



(L-R) **FRONT ROW:** Nataley Witt, DeLanie Witt, Jessica Wertenberger, Macy Keller, Olivia Eickhoff, London Nachtigal **MIDDLE ROW:** Destry Groth, Jentry Lechtenberg, Saylor Hutfles, Makinley Scholl, Addison Keller, Jocelyn Olberding, Adisen Fischer **BACK ROW:** Coach Emma Ebel, Brookelyn Bebermeyer, Shae Dolesi, Chaelee Schmidt, Daycee Witt, Avery Santo, Coach Abby Shubert. **NOT PICTURED:** Coach Holly Westengaard.

W/L • Score 2022 IRISH VOLLEYBALL

Aug. 18	vs.	Auburn Jamboree	6:30 P.M.
Aug. 25	@	Nebraska City Lourdes (AB)	5:30 P.M.
Aug. 30	@	Tri County (AB)	5:30 P.M.
Sept. 3	@	Weeping Water Tourney (A)	TBA
Sept. 6	vs.	Diller-Odell (AB)	5:30 P.M.
Sept. 8	@	Sidney, Iowa (AB)	5:30 P.M.
Sept. 10	@	HTRS Tourney (A)	TBA
Sept. 12,13,15	vs.	MUDECAS Tourn. Beatrice	TBA
Sept. 20	vs.	Pawnee City/Southern Tri (A)	5:00 P.M.
Sept. 22	@	Lewiston (AB)	6:00 P.M.
Sept. 24	@	Axtell KS, Tourney (A)	TBA
Sept. 26	@	Savannah, MO (AB)	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 27	vs.	Freeman (AB)	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	vs.	Sterling (AB) Parents Night	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 4	vs.	Rock Pork (AB)	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 10,11,15	vs.	Pioneer Conf. Tour. (A) DO/JB	TBA
Oct. 18	@	HTRS/Johnson-Brock Tri (A)	5:00 P.M.
Oct. 24,25	vs.	D-2 Sub District (A)	TBA TBA
Oct. 29	vs.	D-2 Sub-State Final (A)	TBA TBA
Nov. 3-5	vs.	State Volleyball Tour. Lincoln	TBA

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(L-R) FRONT ROW: Jaylyn Bohling, Ashton Bredemeier **SECOND ROW:** Jaylie McNealy, Hannah Koziol, Avery Dierberger **THIRD ROW:** Macy Vrtiska, Laramie Glathar, Lily Wamsley, Izzy Hammer **FOURTH ROW:** Jorja DeJonge, Shayfer Cumro, Elie Bstandig, Maddie Bredemeier, Lillian Bowen

W/L • Score	2022 TITAN VOLLEYBALL	
Aug, 23	@ Jamboree (Tri Co. & Sterling)	5:00
Aug, 30	vs Lewiston JV & Varsity	5:00
Sept, 1	vs Falls City & JCC	5:00
Sept, 3	@ Weeping Water Invite	9:00
Sept, 6	vs Lourdes CC JV & Varsity	5:00
Sept, 10	vs HTRS Invite	8:00
Sept, 12,13,15	@ MUDECAS-Beatrice	TBA
Sept, 19	@ JV VS FC & PC	5:00
Sept, 20	@ Auburn JV & Varsity	6:00
Sept, 22	@ Brownell-Talbot & Cornerstone Christian	5:00
Sept, 27	@ Fairbury JV & Varsity	5:00
Oct, 1	@ JCC Invite	9:00
Oct, 3	@ Falls City Tourney JV	3:30
Oct, 6	@ Pawnee City & Diller-Odell	5:00
Oct, 8	@ JCC Tourney JV	9:00
Oct, 10,11,15	Pioneer Conf. Tourney	TBA
Oct, 18	@ JB & FCSH	5:00
Oct, 20	@ Meridian JV & Varsity	5:00
Oct, 24,25	Sub-Districts	TBA
Oct, 29	District Finals	TBA
Nov, 2,3,4,5	State Tournament	TBA

TITANS WILL LOOK TOWARDS YOUTH FOR LEADERSHIP

By Brian McKim (Photo submitted)

The HTRS Titans will rely on a lot of youth this fall when the team hits the volleyball court. Head Coach Kara Engles will look toward five returning starters to lead the squad this year.

HTRS finished last fall at 12-16, winning a season-high three contests in a row from September 11-14. The Titans had their season end at sub-districts against the Southern Raiders in three sets, 20-25, 20-25 and 22-25.

Coach Engles will be entering her 19th season in charge of the Titan program. Engles has led HTRS to 312 wins against 232 losses, including a pair of trips to the NSAA state tournament (2010 and 2019). Assisting Coach Engles on the sidelines again this season will be Brittany Rogers and Nic Sikora.

The Titans lost three essential parts from their team a season ago, with Ellie Schardt, Aly Howe and Jacey Leech graduating in the spring. Last fall, Schardt, a libero, led the team with 272 digs while adding 15 ace serves. Howe, an outside hitter, added 241 digs, 31 aces and 115 kills. Leech, a middle hitter, had 125 kills and 41 ace blocks. According to Coach Engles, all three athletes were great players and even better team leaders.

HTRS has six letter winners returning to action, including five who have starting experience.

Avery Dierberger, a junior, enters her third season starting for Coach Engles. Last fall, Dierberger led the team with 171 kills while adding 171 digs and 20 ace serves. "Very athletic hitter; we need to get her the ball," said Engles.

Another returner is junior right-side hitter Hannah Koziol. Koziol will be a utility player capable of giving the team a spark when needed. Koziol finished 2021 with 20 aces and 148 digs.

At the libero will be junior Jaylie McNealy. McNealy will begin her second season starting for the Titans and, according to Coach Engles, will be considered the leader on the court.

Also returning are a pair of sophomores entering their second season as starters for the Titans. Laramie Glathar, a setter and Macy Vrtiska, a middle hitter return to action. According to Coach Engles, Glathar "gets to everything on the court," and Vrtiska is a "very strong hitter and blocker."

Last fall, Glathar was automatic at the service line, completing 276 of 282 attempts, adding 30 aces, 475 assists and nine blocks.

Vrtiska added 110 kills and 36 ace blocks at the net.

"We have several freshmen that will compete for time," said Engles. "It's still super early and hard to tell who will be on the court for us."

On the offensive side of the court, HTRS has some potentially strong hitters if they can get them the ball. According to Coach Engles, the team struggled with that over the summer.

"Our ball-handling, serve receive and defensive passing all need to improve so our hitters can be successful," said Engles. "We will work hard to improve as the season progresses. Our main goal is to peak at the right time."

The Titans begin the 2022 season with a home contest against the Lewiston Tigers, with JV action set for 5:00 pm. The Titans will host the HTRS Invite on Saturday, September 10, and the MUDECAS Tourney in Beatrice will be played from September 12-15. The Pioneer Conference Tourney will occur from October 10-15, and sub-districts begin on October 24. The NSAA state tourney in Lincoln starts on Wednesday, November 2 and runs through Saturday, November 5.

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2022 TITAN GIRLS GOLF

Aug. 25	vs. Syracuse Invite	Syracuse CC	9 a.m.
Sept. 2	vs. Tri County Invite	Hidden Acres	9 a.m.
Sept. 12	vs. Fairbury Invite	Fairbury CC	9 a.m.
Sept. 15	vs. JCC Invite	Tecumseh CC	9 a.m.
Sept. 19	vs. HTRS Invite	@Kirkmans Golf Course	9 a.m.
Sept. 22	vs. JCC Dual	Tecumseh CC	4 a.m.
Sept. 26	vs. Auburn	Auburn	9 a.m.
Sept. 29	vs. Linc. Christian Inv.	Hidden Valley	9 a.m.
Oct. 4	vs. District		TBA
Oct. 11,12	vs. State		TBA

LADY TITAN GOLFERS SWINGING INTO ACTION

By Brian McKim (Photo Submitted)

With the school year off and running, so are the HTRS Lady Titan golfers. Last fall, Coach Matt Helms had the luxury of his top player from the year before. The team will look slightly different this fall, with Gracie Shafer and Mikkayla Flynn gone. The 2022 squad is small, with just four golfers, but it should be fun.

“This will be a fun year with mostly all new faces,” said Coach Helms. “Libby (Standerford) has played all four years and continues to improve. Lauren (Ogle) has played in the past, but not competitively, so it will be interesting to see how she handles the competition aspect of the game.”

The HTRS team will tee off for the first time this fall on Thursday, August 25, at the Syracuse Invite held at the Syracuse Country Club. On September 19, the Titans will play host to the HTRS Invite held at Kirman’s Cove Golf Course.

Swinging the clubs for HTRS this fall will be freshman Kendall Freeman, sophomore Alyssa Askren, junior Lauren Ogle and senior Libby Standerford.

“We are a very inexperienced team, but we will continue to work hard and improve as the year goes on,” said Coach Helms.



(L-R): Lauren Ogle, Kendall Freeman, Libby Standerford, Alyssa Askren HEAD COACH: Matt Helms

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Tiger Football continued from page 3

“We’ve been making structural changes to the football program, shifting it from a 9-12 program to a 7-12 program with a partnership to grow flag football in the community,” said Coach Bangert. “These changes should yield fruit in time but will not do much in the short term. We have really focused on getting back to the basics, blocking, tackling, footwork, football knowledge and effort.”

Falls City will also look to juniors Kemper Foster, Daniel Hollens, Zane Ebel and Kaleb Zulkowski. Sophomores Robert Gilkerson and Derek Helmick will see the field and freshman Blakely Sells should contribute this fall also.

“Our goal is to just grow as a team and compete for four quarters,” said Bangert. “Everything is new this year, from our turf to the head coach. The schemes are new, the leaders are new and with that much change, there are bound to be bumps in the road.”

Falls City opens the season hosting the Platteview Trojans on August 26 at Jug Brown Stadium. Last fall, Platteview downed FC 35-14 in the season-opener.



Irish Football continued from page 4

“We return three starters,” said Coach Goltz. “We graduated a big senior class including two who were all-staters. We will need to develop some line-men to go with our returning skill players.”

The Irish will be faced with a tough task of winning a very competitive district this fall. “I don’t think there is a bad team on our schedule,” said Goltz. Perennial power houses BDS, Lawrence-Nelson, Johnson-Brock, Nebraska City Lourdes and Elmwood-Murdock will all be looking to trip the Irish up. BDS finished 8-4 last season, Johnson-Brock was 8-3, Elmwood-Murdock was 5-4 and Lourdes finished the 2021 season at 10-1, beating the Irish 59-42 in the season opener.

Sacred Heart will open the 2022 slate with a neutral site game at Peru State against Elmwood-Murdock on Friday, August 27 at 7:00 pm. Sacred Heart’s home opener will be on Friday, September 2, against Lawrence-Nelson at 7:00 pm.

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Humboldt Football continued from page 5

the starting QB. Last fall, he threw for a record 1,271 yards and 22 touchdowns while completing 76 of 149 pass attempts.

The Titans also welcome back speedster JJ McQueen a second-year starter at running back and safety. McQueen, an NSAA state track meet qualifier last spring in the 100m and 200m dash, is the fastest kid on the team and will be a serious threat in the passing game.

Three other athletes looking to build on last fall are Brennen Vaughan, a second-year starter at outside linebacker; Brogan Dunlap, a second-year safety and Hunter Bohling, a second-year starter at outside linebacker.

“Should have quality skill players and a good compliment of veteran and young offensive lineman,” said Coach Lempka. “Ryken Davis should be a force on both sides of the ball and look for JJ McQueen and Hunter Bohling to surprise some folks this year.”

Irish Volleyball continued from page 12

there. They are a great group of kids with so much potential and if they really put the work in then I know they are capable of so much.”

Ebel said her goal for the team offensively is to run a quick-tempo offense that can keep teams on their toes and defensively, she wants the Irish to be a team that is hard to put the ball away on.

Sacred Heart opens the 2022 season on the road at Lourdes Central on Thursday, August 25, beginning at 5:30 pm. The Irish home opener is slated for Tuesday, September 6, when the Irish host perennial powerhouse Diller-Odell at the Roh Activity Center. The Griffins finished the 2021 season at 23-10, giving the Irish their only two losses last fall. The MUDECAS tourney in Beatrice will run from September 12-15, sub-districts will begin on October 24 and state volleyball in Lincoln will run from November 3-5.



The staff of *The Falls City Journal* would like to thank all of the advertisers for making this publication possible. And to all of the schools for being so cooperative and patient with us. We wish all schools an amazing & safe sports season.

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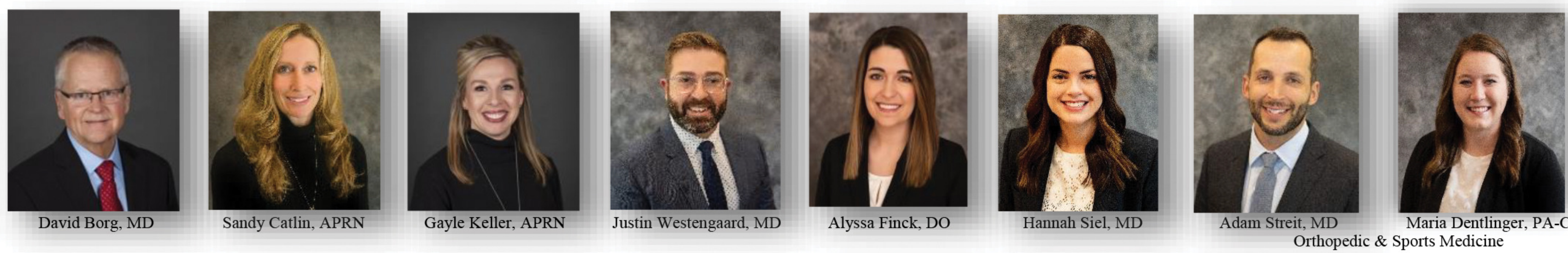
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Good Luck to all county athletes!

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