

HIGH SCHOOL 2022 PREVIEW WINTER SPORTS



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(L-R) **FRONT ROW:** Jon Craig, Bryson Butrick, Kyler Frederick, Alijah Hernandez, Jaxyn Strauss **MIDDLE ROW:** Rome West, Quenton Adams, Marcus Gordon, Cayden Dunkhas, Josh Brown, Ethan Morris, Tallon Zimmerman, Austin Stewart, Dakota Auxier, Caleb McConnell **BACK ROW:** Gannon Ogden, Wyatt Kreifels, Charlie McNeely, Kiefer Adams, Eric Heinzelman, Brock Caudle, Aiden Wendlandt, Blake Johnson, Gavin Cole

TIGERS UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP FOR FIRST TIME IN 23 SEASONS

Story By Brian McKim, Photo By Chelsie Alexander

The Falls City Tiger boys' basketball team will be under new direction this winter for the first time in over two decades. Coach Don Hogue hung up his clipboard after 23 years and 296 wins with Falls City. In his place will be first-year Head Coach Patrick Miller. Last year, Coach Miller, a Pawnee City High School graduate, served as the boys' basketball coach at Smith Center, Ks.

Jaxson Balm and Brandon Gibson will assist Coach Miller; both are first-year assistants with the Tiger high school team.

Last winter, Falls City had a down season, wrapping up the 2021-22 with a 6-16 mark. FC opened the 2021-22 year with a six-game losing streak before defeating Sterling in the Weeping Water Holiday Tourney to get the first win of the season. The Tigers had a season-best two-game winning streak to wrap up the regular season, defeating HTRS 56-40 and Fairbury 65-49. Unfortunately for the Tigers, Fairbury got revenge in sub-districts, beating FC 45-55.

Under the new head coach, Falls City will look to run a free-flowing offense while trying to protect the basket on defense with more of a pack-line mentality. Falls City returns three letter winners with Jaxyn Strauss, Bryson Butrick and Jon Craig. Coach Miller will also look to Alijah Hernandez, Cayden Dunkhas and Charlie McNeely for meaningful minutes throughout the season.

Last winter, Strauss led the Tigers with 266 points, averaging 12.7 points per contest and 104 rebounds. Craig scored 181 points for an 8.2 ppg average while pulling down team-best 114 rebounds. Butrick led the playmaking for FC last year with 61 assists.

Coach Miller's outlook for the season is five-fold. First, Miller "hopes to meet the standards of our program through our core values of servanthood, gratitude, humility, passion and unity." Miller also hopes to achieve academic success, to compete in every aspect of basketball, to play simple, solid and sound basketball and "to give 87% every day, looking for ways to become better"-- Dick DeVenzio.

Falls City opened the season at home against Syracuse on Friday, December 2, 2022. Last year the Rockets got the best of the Tigers in the opener, 34-46. The Tigers will be at home again on Friday, December 9, when they host the Johnson-Brock Eagles. The Eagles shut down FC last December, 21-67. FC will play in the Weeping Water Holiday

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2022 TIGER BOYS BASKETBALL			
W/L	Score		
Dec. 2	vs	Syracuse (JV, V)	4:30pm
Dec. 9	vs	Johnson-Brock (JV, V)	4:30pm
Dec. 10	vs	Freeman (JV, V)	3:00pm
Dec. 16	@	Plattsmouth (JV, V)	4:30pm
Dec. 20	@	Elmwood-Murdock (JV, V)	4:30pm
Dec. 29, 30	@	Weeping Water Holiday Tour (V)	
Jan. 2	@	Aub.-SE NE Shootout vs Milford	4pm
Jan. 3	@	Nebraska City (JV, V)	4:30pm
Jan. 6	@	Lourdes C.C. (JV, V)	4:30pm
Jan. 9-14	@	Fairfax, MO Tourney (V)	
Jan. 19	vs	Conestoga (JV, V) Parents Night	4:30pm
Jan. 21	vs	Johnson County Central (JV, V)	3pm
Jan. 24	vs	Auburn (JV, V)	4:30pm
Jan. 27	@	Weeping Water (JV, V)	5:00pm
Jan. 30-Feb. 4	@	ECNC Tournament	TBA
Feb. 7	vs	Diller-Odell (JV, V)	4:30pm
Feb. 9	@	HTRS (JV, V)	5:00pm
Feb. 17	@	Fairbury (JV, V)	5:30pm
Feb. 20, 21, 23	@	Sub-District Class C-1	TBA
Feb. 25	@	District Final	TBA
Mar. 8-11	@	State Tournament in Lincoln	TBA

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(L-R) **FRONT ROW:** Jack Stice, James Froeschl, John Crouse, Riley Nelson, Sam Dunn, Evan Keithley, Carson Sells, Joe Simon **BACK ROW:** Cole Taft, Brenden Lemerond, Patrick Froeschl, Alex Madsen, Tyler Sipple, Connor Nelson, Quincy Koelliker, Clayton Keithley, Gavin Clow, Cooper Knobbe, Tate Wilcox

Irish poised for another postseason run



Story By Brian McKim, Photo By Chelsie Alexander

Expectations are always high for Coach Doug Goltz and the Sacred Heart Irish boys' basketball team; the 2022-23 season will be no different. The Irish are coming off a 24-6 season and a third place finish at the NSAA state tournament. Sacred Heart fell to Parkview Christian in the semi-finals last spring but bounced back to take down Osceola, 63-40, in the third-place contest at Lincoln East High School.

Head Coach Doug Goltz, the all-time leader in Nebraska boys' basketball, enters the season with a career record of 718 wins against only 189 losses. Assisting Coach Goltz on the bench will be Brian Lemerond. During his 36 years in charge of the Irish, Goltz's teams have amassed 11 state championships, the most recent coming in the 2020-21 season.

Sacred Heart graduated four seniors from last year's squad and they will all be missed. Gone are Jakob Jordan, Brogan Nachtigal, Jake Froeschl and Derek Schawang. Jordan led the team with 12 points per game and 121 assists. Nachtigal added 11 points per game and 168 rebounds. Froeschl scored seven points per game, pulled down 101 rebounds and added 56 steals. Schawang finished with 65 rebounds and four blocked shots.

Coach Goltz does have the benefit of returning six letter winners, including two starters. Evan Keithley, a 6'1 guard, set a school record for most made three-pointers in a season, making 66 of 174 attempts. Joe Simon, a 6'3 forward, averaged eight points and six rebounds per game while finishing with a team-high 28 blocked shots.

The Irish will look at seniors Sam Dunn and Riley Nelson and juniors Jack Stice and James Froeschl to complete the rotation.

On the offensive end of the court, Coach Goltz hopes to have a balanced attack, not relying on just one or two players for points. Defensively, the Irish will pressure the ball, but they may mix in a little more zone defense due to the lack of depth.

The Irish will face a lot of stiff competition this winter, playing the likes of Auburn, Johnson-Brock, LeBlond, Tri County, the Freeman Holiday Tourney, the MUDECAS Tourney and the Pioneer Conference Tournament.

"We can be a contending D2 team if we work hard, avoid injuries and improve during the season," said Goltz. "We lost some very good seniors but return some very talented players."

The Irish opened the season on Friday, December 2, at Sterling. Last year, the Irish opened with a 74-29 win over the Jets in Falls City. The Irish will play in the Freeman Holiday Tourney on December 29 and 30, the MUDECAS Tourney in Beatrice from January 9 to January 14 and the Pioneer Conference Tourney from January 30 to February 4, 2023.

2022 IRISH BOYS BASKETBALL			
W/L • Score			
Dec. 2	@ Sterling (JVGB)		5:00pm
Dec. 6	vs Neb. City Lourdes (bgG)		4:30pm
Dec. 9	@ Friend (GB)		6:00pm
Dec. 13	@ Lewiston (bGB)		5:00pm
Dec. 16	vs HTRS (gbGB)		4:00pm
Dec. 17	vs Bishop LeBlond (GB)		12:00pm
Dec. 20	vs Tri County (gbGB)		4:30pm
Dec. 22	@ Elmwood-Mur (gbGB)		4:30pm
Dec. 29, 30	@Freeman HolidayTour (GB) @ Adams	TBA	
Jan. 6	vs Diller-Odell(gbGB)	Girls Parents Night	4:30pm
Jan. 7	@ LeBlond-Steve Vertin Classic (B)	TBA	
Jan. 9-14	@ Beatrice MUDECAS Tour.	TBA	
Jan. 17	vs Auburn (gbGB)		4:30pm
Jan. 20	@ Pawnee City (gbGB)		5:00pm
Jan. 24	vs Southern(gbGB)	Boys Parents Night	4pm
Jan. 26	@ Johnson-Brock (gbGB)		4:00pm
Jan. 30-Feb. 4	@Pioneer Conf (GB) TC/Lew/PC	TBA	
Feb. 9	vs Weeping Water (gbGB)		4:30pm
Feb. 10	@ Sidney (bb)		6:00pm
Feb. 17	vs Nebraska City Lourdes (bb)		5:30pm
Feb. 20, 21, 23	@ D-2 Sub-Districts (B)	TBA	
Feb. 25-28	@ D-2 Sub-State Final (B)	TBA	
Mar. 8-11	@ Lincoln State Tournament	TBA	



Wishing County Athletes A Successful Season!

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(L-R) **FRONT ROW:** Arthur Penisson, Ryken Davis, Jack Hunzeker, Brandt Leech, Peio Jon Uribe Rodriguez **MIDDLE ROW:** Alex Koziol, JJ McQueen, Brogan Dunlap, Hunter Bohling, Kiffen Hunzeker, Emmett Glathar **BACK ROW:** Coach Mike Schardt, Coach Heath Finke **NOT PICTURED** Colt McClarnen and John Koch



TITANS WILL LEAN ON YOUTH FOR 2022-23

Story By Brian McKim,
Photo By Chelsie Alexander



The HTRS Titan boys' basketball team enters the third season under Coach Mike Schardt. Last winter, the Titans finished the season just under the .500 mark, finishing at 12-15. In his two seasons in charge of HTRS, Schardt is 19-31. First-year assistant coach Heath Finke will assist Schardt this winter.

Coach Schardt will have to replace the bulk of his offense from a season ago. Gone are Nic Knudson (17.2 ppg), Gage Schardt (11.5 ppg), Andy Stalder (5.3 ppg), Hunter Frey (2.2 ppg.) Knudson finished with a team-best 62 steals and 53 assists. Schardt had a team-high 183 rebounds, 25 blocked shots and 51 assists. Stalder hauled in 151 rebounds and 50 assists. Jack Hunzeker is the lone returning starter for the Titans this winter. A year ago, Hunzeker scored 153 points last season to average 5.6 points per game. Hunzeker added 41 rebounds, 21 steals and 36 assists.

"I will be looking for four new starters so that it could be a learning curve offensively," said Coach Schardt. "Should have good speed, but there will be speed bumps on the offensive end." On the defensive end of the hardwood, look for the Titans to run a high-pressure, man-to-man. HTRS will make the opposition play full-court offense for all four quarters.

Schardt will lean on sophomores Hunter Bohling and Brogan Dunlap, juniors J.J. McQueen, Alex Koziol and Arthur Penisson and seniors Ryken Davis and Brandt Leech.

Coach Schardt said his first order of business would be to get six to eight guys to blend and play together as a team.

"I know my guys will be able to step up and fill the shoes from last year's senior class. They have good work ethic, so that will help get us going early," said Schardt.

Last winter, the Titans placed third in the "B" division of the MUDECAS tourney in Beatrice, placed second at the Weeping Water Holiday Tourney and were the runner-up in sub-districts. HTRS had its season end in the sub-district final, falling to Lourdes Central 52-31. The Titans defeated McCool Junction in the sub-district opener 52-37 and then upset the top seed Johnson-Brock 55-48.

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2022 TITAN BOYS BASKETBALL				
W/L	Score			
	Dec. 2	@	Diller-Odell	4:30pm
	Dec. 3	vs	Weeping Water	1:00pm
	Dec. 6	@	Lewiston (V)	6:00pm
	Dec. 9	vs	Lourdes CC	4:00pm
	Dec. 10	vs	Table Rock Tourn (JV)	9am
	Dec. 13	@	Freeman	4:30pm
	Dec. 16	@	FC Sacred Heart RAC	4pm
	Dec. 17	vs	Southern	12:00pm
	Dec. 20	@	Fairbury	4:30pm
	Dec. 29-30	@	WW Holiday Tourn	TBA
	Jan. 6	@	Sterling	4:00pm
	Jan. 7	vs	Conestoga	1:00pm
	Jan. 9-10, 12-14	@	Beatrice-MUDECAS	TBA
	Jan. 17	vs	Pawnee City	4:00pm
	Jan. 19	@	JCC	4:30pm
	Jan. 30-31, Feb 2-4		Pioneer Conf.	TBA
	Feb. 7	@	Tri County	4:30pm
	Feb. 9	vs	Falls City	4:00pm
	Feb. 10	vs	Johnson-Brock	4:00pm
	Feb. 11	@	Freeman Tour (JV)	8:00am
	Feb. 17	vs	Palmyra	5:00pm
	Feb. 20-21	@	Sub-Districts	TBA
	Feb. 25	@	District Finals	TBA
	Mar. 9-11	@	State	TBA

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(L-R) **FRONT ROW:** Hannah Collier, Reece McNeely, Elyse Poppe, Madi Jones **BACK ROW:** Katelyn Titus, Delaney Godeman, Emily Vitosh, Isabelle Armbruster, Ava Armbruster, Jayme Ewers, Carlea Dunkhas **NOT PICTURED:** Kaitlyn Kirkendall, Ashleigh Kirkendall

EXPERIENCED LADY TIGERS READY FOR HOOPS SEASON

Story By Brian McKim, Photo By Chelsie Alexander



Falls City Lady Tiger head coach Andy Armbruster welcomes back four starters for the 2022-23 basketball season and he has high expectations for this group. Returning starters for the Lady Tigers will be a pair of seniors in Madi Jones and Reece McNeely; both forwards have three years of starting experience under their belts. Last winter Jones scored 268 points, had 50 steals, 103 rebounds and converted 61/124 free throw attempts. McNeely secured 86 rebounds last season while scoring 73 points.

Two juniors are also back on the hardwood for coach Armbruster. Ashley Kirkendall, a two-year starter at guard/forward and Ava Armbruster, a two-year starting guard, will add to the experience on the court this winter. Kirkendall led Falls City with 12 three-pointers, scored 130 points, added 87 rebounds and had 32 steals. Armbruster will handle the play-calling role on the court for FC. Last season, Ava dished out 72 assists, pulled down 61 rebounds, had 40 steals and averaged over four points per contest.

Coach Armbruster will have some depth to draw from this winter as he looks for seniors Elyse Poppe and Hannah Collier to log essential minutes on the court, as well as junior Emily Vitosh and sophomore Isabelle Armbruster.

Gone from last winter's team are Chase Nolte and Makinley Scholl. Nolte scored 143, had 117 rebounds and 11 blocked shots and Scholl added 167 points, 87 rebounds, 80 assists and 57 and 57 steals.

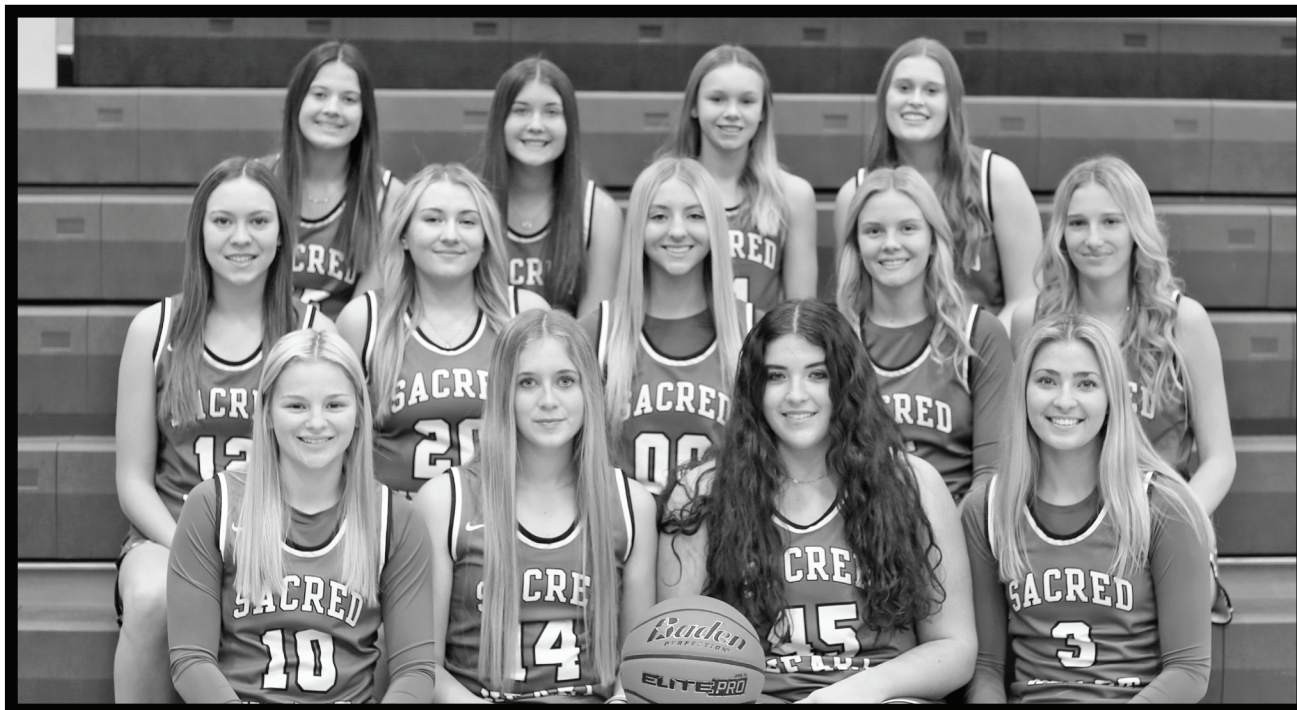
"We have four seniors and two juniors returning with varsity experience," said Coach Armbruster. "This is as experienced of a team as I have worked with. Their leadership will be a determining factor in this season's success. We will be undersized most nights, but with improved shooting and aggressive defense, we should be competitive."

Armbruster enters his third season in charge of the Lady Tigers and is 23-23 overall with a 14-10 2021-22 campaign. Assisting Armbruster will be Josh McCampbell, who is moving over from the boy's bench.

Offensively, Falls City will look to be more aggressive on the offensive end, driving to the bucket more and looking to take advantage of some open looks from

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2022 TIGER GIRLS BASKETBALL			
W/L	Score		
Dec. 2	vs	Syracuse (JV, V)	4:30pm
Dec. 9	vs	Johnson-Brock (JV, V)	4:00pm
Dec. 10	vs	Freeman (JV, V)	3:00pm
Dec. 13	vs	Southern (JV, V) <i>Parents Night</i>	6:00pm
Dec. 16	@	Plattsmouth (JV, V)	4:30pm
Dec. 20	@	Elmwood-Murdock (JV, V)	4:30pm
Dec. 29, 30	@	Weeping Water Holiday Tour (V)	
Jan. 2	@	Aub.-SE NE Shootout vs A-G	2:30pm
Jan. 3	@	Nebraska City (JV, V)	4:30pm
Jan. 6	@	Lourdes C.C. (JV, V)	4:30pm
Jan. 9-14	@	Fairfax, MO Tourney (V)	TBA
Jan. 19	vs	Conestoga (JV, V)	4:30pm
Jan. 21	vs	Johnson County Central (JV, V)	2pm
Jan. 24	vs	Auburn (JV, V)	4:30pm
Jan. 27	@	Weeping Water (JV, V)	4:00pm
Jan. 30-Feb. 4	@	ECNC Tournament	TBA
Feb. 7	vs	Diller-Odell (JV, V)	4:30pm
Feb. 9	@	HTRS (JV, V)	4:00pm
Feb. 13, 14, 16	@	Sub-District Class C-1	TBA
Feb. 24	@	District Final	TBA
Mar. 1-4	@	State Tournament in Lincoln	TBA



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Good Luck To All Athletes This Season!

(L-R) **FRONT ROW:** DeLanie Witt, Jessica Wertenberger, Macy Keller, Olivia Eickhoff
MIDDLE ROW: Jentry Lechtenberg, Elle Falk, Makinley Scholl, Sadie Tisdell, Jocelyn Olberding
BACK ROW: Chaelee Schmidt, Avery Santo, Daycee Witt, Shae Dolisi

LADY IRISH LOOKING TO REMAIN ON TOP



Story By Brian McKim, Photo By Chelsie Alexander

The defending Class D2 state champs will have plenty of new faces on the court this winter, but don't count out the Irish as they head into the 2022-23 season.

Head Coach Luke Santo enters his 17th season in charge of the Lady Irish program. During his stint, Santo had won four state titles and amassed an incredible 392-55 record. Santo's teams have also finished runner-up three times at the state tourney.

Last winter, the Irish finished 27-3, winning the Freeman Holiday Tourney, the MUDECAS Tournament, the Pioneer Conference crown and the program's seventh state championship. The Irish ended the season last year on a 19-game winning streak, including a 43-33 win over the defending champion, Humphrey St. Francis.

Erison Vonderschmidt, Rachel Magdanz, Lauren Malone and Emma Littrel are gone from last season. Vonderschmidt was an All-State selection and left Sacred Heart as the school's all-time leading scorer. Magdanz was also an All-State selection and scored over 1,000 points in her career. Malone was a solid defender who finished with 50 steals and 52 assists. Littrel finished the season with 96 rebounds, 24 steals and eight blocks.

The Irish have some experience returning in Olivia Eickhoff and Jessica Wertenberger, each three-year starters.

"We'll probably be more guard-heavy than we've been in the past," said Santo. "So we need to develop some outside shooting. With all the guards we have coming back, we should have multiple ball handlers on the floor at all times, so that should help keep turnovers down and help against pressing teams." Santo will also lean on seniors DeLanie Witt and Macy Keller and junior Makinley Scholl. Witt scored 153 points last year, Keller added 48 points and 52 rebounds and Scholl scored 167 points and pulled down 87 rebounds at Falls City High School last winter.

The Lady Irish hope to pick up where they left off last winter. SH lost their three games last winter by a total of 17 points, including a two-point loss to Bishop LeBlond.

"We had a great class graduate, but we return two all-state type players in Olivia Eickhoff and Jessica Wertenberger, along with some other girls that have some big-game experience, so we feel like we have the talent to build around," said Santo.

The Irish will be ready for all-comers as they look to retain their state championship.

"We had a great summer against some great competition," said Santo. "During the summer, we try to play bigger schools, tough competition and schools that we don't normally see. We won the Miss Basketball tournament in Kearney and our summer league in Sabetaha. Hopefully, through practice and some of our early games, we will get girls settled into their new roles, get some key game experience, gain some confidence throughout December, and have things figured out by the new year. We don't feel like expectations should drop because of who we graduated."

continued on page 14

2022 IRISH GIRLS BASKETBALL		
W/L • Score		
Dec. 2	@ Sterling (JVGB)	5:00pm
Dec. 6	vs Neb. City Lourdes (bgG)	4:30pm
Dec. 8	vs Sidney (gG)	6:00pm
Dec. 9	@ Friend (GB)	6:00pm
Dec. 13	@ Lewiston (bGB)	5:00pm
Dec. 16	vs HTRS (gbGB)	4:00pm
Dec. 17	vs Bishop LeBlond (GB)	12:00pm
Dec. 20	vs Tri County (gbGB)	4:30pm
Dec. 22	@ Elmwood-Mur (gbGB)	4:30pm
Dec. 29, 30	@Freeman HolidayTour (GB) @ Adams	TBA
Jan. 6	vs Diller-Odell(gbGB)Girls Parents Night	4:30pm
Jan. 9-14	@ Beatrice MUDECAS Tour.	TBA
Jan. 17	vs Auburn (gbGB)	4:30pm
Jan. 20	@ Pawnee City (gbGB)	5:00pm
Jan. 24	vs Southern(gbGB)-Boys Parents Night	4pm
Jan. 26	@ Johnson-Brock (gbGB)	4:00pm
Jan. 30-Feb. 4	@Pioneer Conf (GB) TC/Lew/PC	TBA
Feb. 9	vs Weeping Water (gbGB)	4:30pm
Feb. 13, 14, 16	@ D-2 Sub-Dis (G)	TBA
Feb. 24	@ D-2 Sub-State Final (G)	TBA
Mar. 1-4	@ Lincoln State Tourn. (G)	TBA

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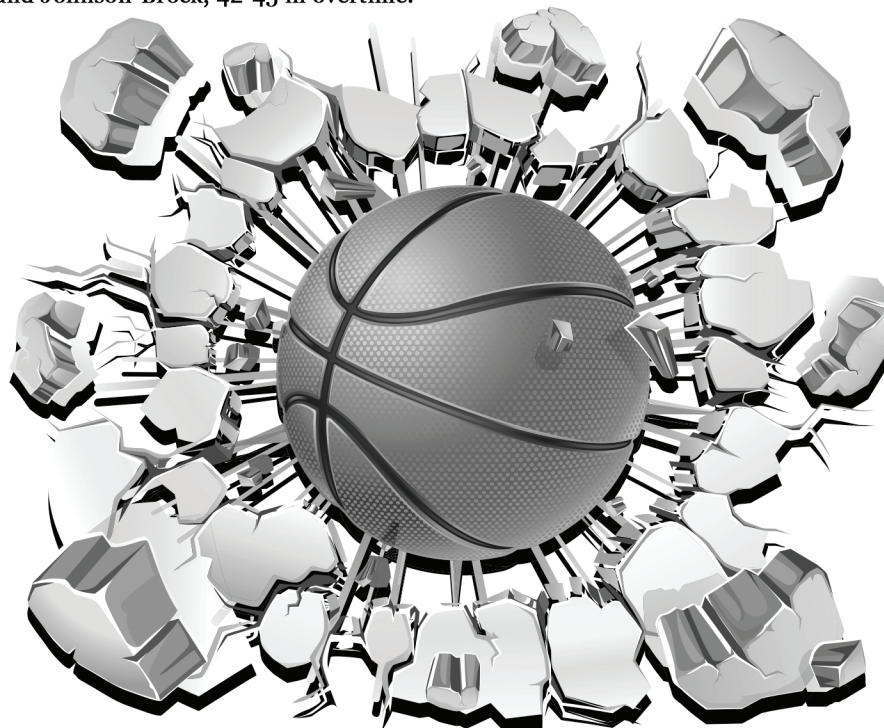
**GO
FIGHT
WIN!**

Tiger Girls Basketball continued from page 6

beyond the arc. Defensively, FC will try to get their opponents to turn the ball over by playing aggressive, man-to-man defense. Armbruster hopes the pressure defense will cause more deflections, leading to steals and fewer opportunities on offense by their foes.

The Tigers will be looking to play well all season, but games against Syracuse, Auburn and a chance to defend their championship at the Fairfax Tourney will be high on the Lady Tigers' list. At the end of the season, coach Armbruster hopes Falls City will be competing for both a conference and district title.

FC opens the 2022-23 campaign with a home contest against the Syracuse Rockets on Friday, December 2, 2022. The Tigers will get Johnson-Brock and Freeman at home on Friday, December 9, and Saturday, December 10. Last winter, FC fell to Syracuse 23-56 and Johnson-Brock, 42-45 in overtime.




*Best Wishes
For A
Successful
Season!*

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to a
great season and
everyone reaching
their goals!

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(L-R) **FRONT ROW:** Libby Standerford, Ashton Bredemeier, Jaylyn Bohling **MIDDLE ROW:** Alyssa Askren, Izzy Hammer, Laramie Glathar, Jaylie McNealy, Avery Dierberger, Coach Brittany Rogge **BACK ROW:** Coach Schuyler Kuhlmann, Elie Bstandig, Shayfer Cumro, Maddie Bredemeier, Kenadi McClarnen, Lillian Bowen and Coach Todd Dierberger



UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP, LADY TITANS READY FOR 2022-23 CAMPAIGN



Story By Brian McKim, Photo By Chelsie Alexander

The Lady Titans have a new head coach for the winter season as Schuyler Kuhlmann takes over for Karmen Tomek as the HTRS basketball coach. In three years with the Titans, Tomek wrapped up her coaching duties with an overall 31-41 record. Assisting Coach Kuhlmann will be Todd Dierberger (second year) and Brittany Rogge (first year.)

Redirecting the Titan program won't be easy for Kuhlmann as his team will replace six seniors who were contributors last winter. Gone from the 2021-22 team are Jacey Leech, a third-team All-Conference post player and Ellie Schardt, an All-Conference honorable mention selection at guard. Leech was important on both sides of the ball and Schardt was a great ball handler for the squad. The Titans will also miss Gracie Shafer, Aly Howe and Saydee Hardesty.

"We're going to be a small team," said Coach Kuhlmann. "So, we want to push the ball when we can. We also have a few good outside shooters that we hope will get going to give us more opportunities to get to the rim."

On the defensive end of the court, HTRS will try to speed teams up and force turnovers.

"We're going to try a few different looks to see what works best for us as things move forward," said Kuhlmann.

Sophomore Laramie Glathar and junior Jaylie McNealy will bring some experience to the table this winter for the Titans.

"Laramie will be looked at to do a lot of things for us," said Coach Kuhlmann. "She's a good ball handler, but also can work and score down low. Jaylie is primarily a guard. She is a good shooter and she'll be looked at to be one of our leaders this year."

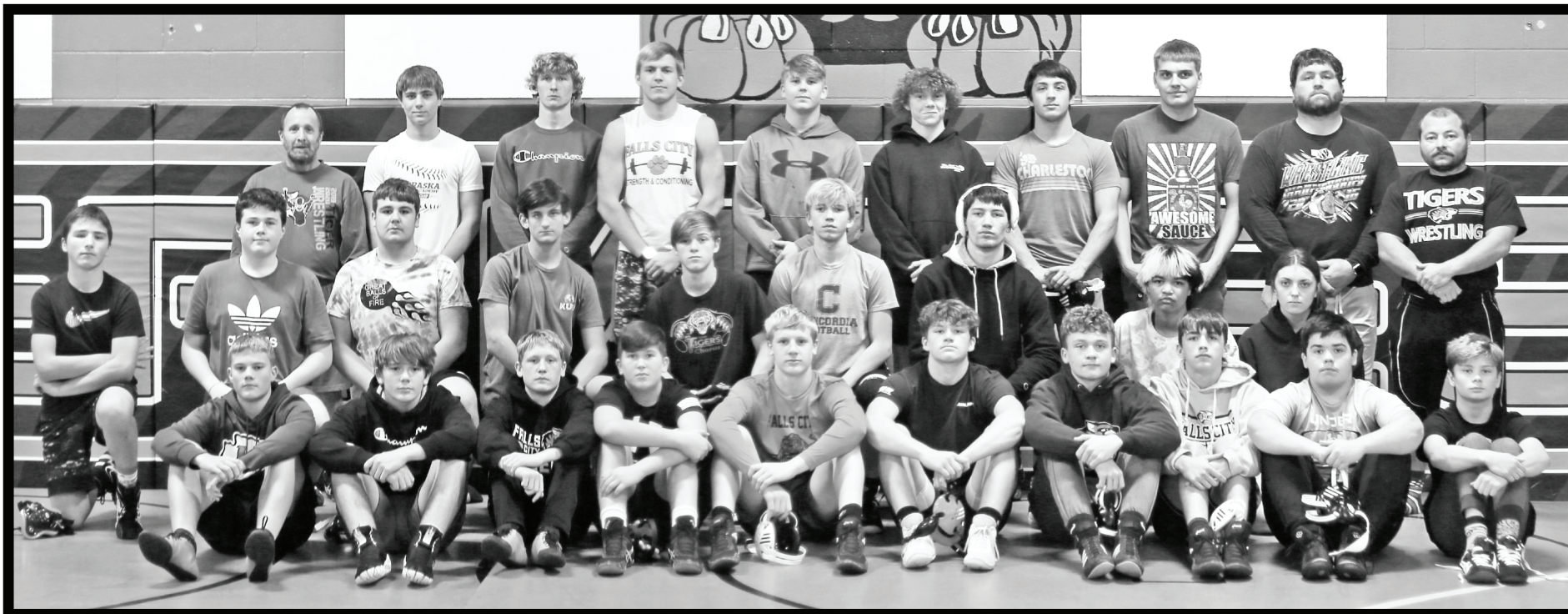
The Titans will also seek contributions from seniors Ashton Bredemeier, Jaylyn Bohling, and junior Avery Dierberger.

"Ashton is a great shooter who can help us down low defensively as well," said Kuhlmann. "Jaylyn is a good ball handler that can get downhill. Avery will be one of our primary scorers this season, as she can get to the paint and shoot well from several different spots. She is also very athletic and can get out and run," said Kuhlmann.

HTRS will also have a good group of youngsters that will impact the team. Look for Lillian Bowen, Maddie Bredemeier and Kennadi McClarnen to log some minutes this winter.

continued on page 14

2022		TITAN GIRLS BASKETBALL	
W/L	Score		
Dec. 2	@	Diller-Odell (HS)	4:30pm
Dec. 3	vs	Weeping Water	1:00pm
Dec. 6	@	Lewiston (HS) (V)	6:00pm
Dec. 9	vs	Lourdes CC	4:00pm
Dec. 10	vs	JV HTRS Tour-& TableRock	9am
Dec. 13	@	Freeman (HS)	4:30pm
Dec. 16	@	FC Sacred Heart-RAC	4:00pm
Dec. 17	vs	Southern	12:00pm
Dec. 20	@	Fairbury (HS)	4:30pm
Dec. 29-30	@	Weeping Water (HS) Holiday Tourn	TBD
Jan. 6	@	Sterling (HS)	4:00pm
Jan. 7	vs	Conestoga	1:00pm
Jan. 9-10, 12-14	@	Beatrice-MUDECAS	TBD
Jan. 16	vs	Mound City	6:00pm
Jan. 17	vs	Pawnee City	4:00pm
Jan. 19	@	JCC (HS)	4:30pm
Jan. 30-31, Feb 2-4		Pioneer Conference	TBD
Feb. 7	@	Tri County (HS)	4:30pm
Feb. 9	vs	Falls City	4:00pm
Feb. 10	vs	Johnson-Brock	4:00pm
Feb. 11	@	JV Freeman Tourney	8:00am
Feb. 13, 14		Subdistricts	TBD
Feb. 24		District Finals	TBD
Mar. 2, 3, 4		Girls State	TBD



(L-R) **FRONT ROW:** Ryker Jones, Jayden Mirelez, Cade Caudle, Zavier Ebel, Blakely Sells, Mason Collier, Vaden Leyden, Orion Cattrell, Ashton Martin and Bryce Adams **MIDDLE ROW:** Caden Collier, Brody Tackett, Chase Simpson, Tegan Alexander, Bailey Thimmes, Preston Buckminster, Robert Gilkerson, Daphne Schramm, Elizabeth Vice **BACK ROW:** Coach Nelson, Gavin Bauer, Wyatt Olberding, Kellen McAfee, Zane Ebel, Kaleb Zulkoski, Kady Streecker, Wyatt Wason, Coach Coatney, Coach Kraft

TIGER WRESTLERS HOPING TO PIN THE COMPETITION

Story By Brian McKim, Photo By Chelsie Alexander



The Falls City wrestling team is ready for their competition and will have plenty of experience returning to the mats for the 2022-23 season. Head coach Nick Kraft enters his tenth season with the Tigers and co-head coach Quentin Coatney begins his third season. Assisting Kraft and Coatney for his 20th season will be Troy Nelson and Keith Gilkerson in his sixth year helping with the program.

The Falls City group will return seven letter winners from the year prior. The team placed fourth at districts, 13th at the NSAA state meet and had four wrestlers earn ECNC All-Conference nods. Falls City sent four individuals to the state meet in Omaha last winter, with two bringing medals home. Wyatt Olberding placed third in the 138-pound division and Thomas Fields placed fifth at 195. Also competing at the CHI Health Center last February were senior Jaden Nolte and freshman Robert Olberding. Olberding became the 70th Tiger to medal and Fields was the 71st. Gilkerson became just the tenth freshman to qualify and only the third to win a match at the state meet.




Returners for the Tigers will be juniors Kayden Streecker (170lbs), Kaleb Zulkoski (126lbs), Wyatt Olberding (145lbs) and Zane Ebel (195lbs). Sophomores back in action will be Preston Buckminster (132lbs), Robert Gilkerson (152lbs), Tegan Alexander (138lbs) and Daphne Schramm (145lbs).

Falls City will have depth on the squad but will have to replace a large group of athletes. Athletes who will be missed from last year are Nolte, Fields, Cameron Schramm, Ray Feek, Quenton Adams, Kemper Foster, Isaac Frederick and Tate Wilcox.

continued to page 15

W/L -Score	2022 TIGER WRESTLING		
Dec. 1	vs	Syracuse (JV, V)	6:00pm
Dec. 2	@	Nebraska City (Girls)	10:00am
Dec. 3	@	Omaha N-Vern Ekfelt Tourn (JV, V)	9am
Dec. 9	@	Syracuse Invitational (JV)	4:30pm
Dec. 16	@	Platteview Invitational (JV, V)	2:00pm
Dec. 17	@	Auburn Invitational (V)	9:00am
Dec. 17	@	Platteview Invitational (Girls)	9:00am
Dec. 29	@	HTRS (JV, V) & (Girls)	5:30pm
Jan. 3	vs	Auburn/Platteview DD	5:00pm
Jan. 5	vs	Neb. City (JV, V) Parent's Night	6:00pm
Jan. 6/7	@	Tri County 2 Day Dual Tourn (V)	2:00pm
Jan. 12	@	Sab/@Maryville,MO DD	5:30pm
Jan. 14	@	Neb. City Dual Tourn (V, Girls)	10:00am
Jan. 19	@	Conestoga (JV, V) & (Girls)	6:00pm
Jan. 20	@	Plattsmouth Inv. (JV, Girls)	4:30pm
Jan. 21	@	Plattsmouth Invitational (V)	9:30am
Jan. 21	@	Weeping Water Tourn (Girls)	9:30am
Jan. 29	@	Raymond Central Inv. (JV, V)	9:00am
Jan. 30	vs	ECNC Tournament (Girls)	2:00pm
Feb. 3	vs	ECNC Tournament	2:00pm
Feb. 10,11		Districts Class C	TBA
Feb. 16, 17, 18		State Tournament @ Omaha	TBA

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SMALL, BUT MIGHTY GROUP TO LEAD HTRS/PAWNEE CITY WRESTLING

Story By Brian McKim, Photo By Chelsie Alexander



The HTRS/Pawnee City wrestling team will consist of only three wrestlers this winter. The good news for Coach Shane Maloley is all three are returning letter winners from last season. Maloley will have the task of replacing a pair of exceptional seniors from last year; Isaac Bitner and Aiden Worthey.

Worthey, competing in the Class C 195-pound division, placed second at the NSAA state wrestling competition held in Omaha last February. Worthey finished the tourney at 3-1, with his lone loss coming in the championship match. Worthey dropped a 5-3 decision to Ryan Gabriel of Ord in the finals and finished 47-3 for the season.

Assisting Coach Maloley on the mat this winter will be Koalton Taiclet.

HTRS/PC will be competing in the Class C-1 district this winter. The district final will take place at Boone Central High School on February 10 and 11, 2023. Joining HTRS/PC in the district are Arlington, Boone Central, David City, Fillmore Central, Grand Island Central Catholic, Johnson County Central, Logan View, Louisville, Malcolm, North Bend Central, Oakland-Craig, Raymond Central, Southern and Wilber-Clatonia.

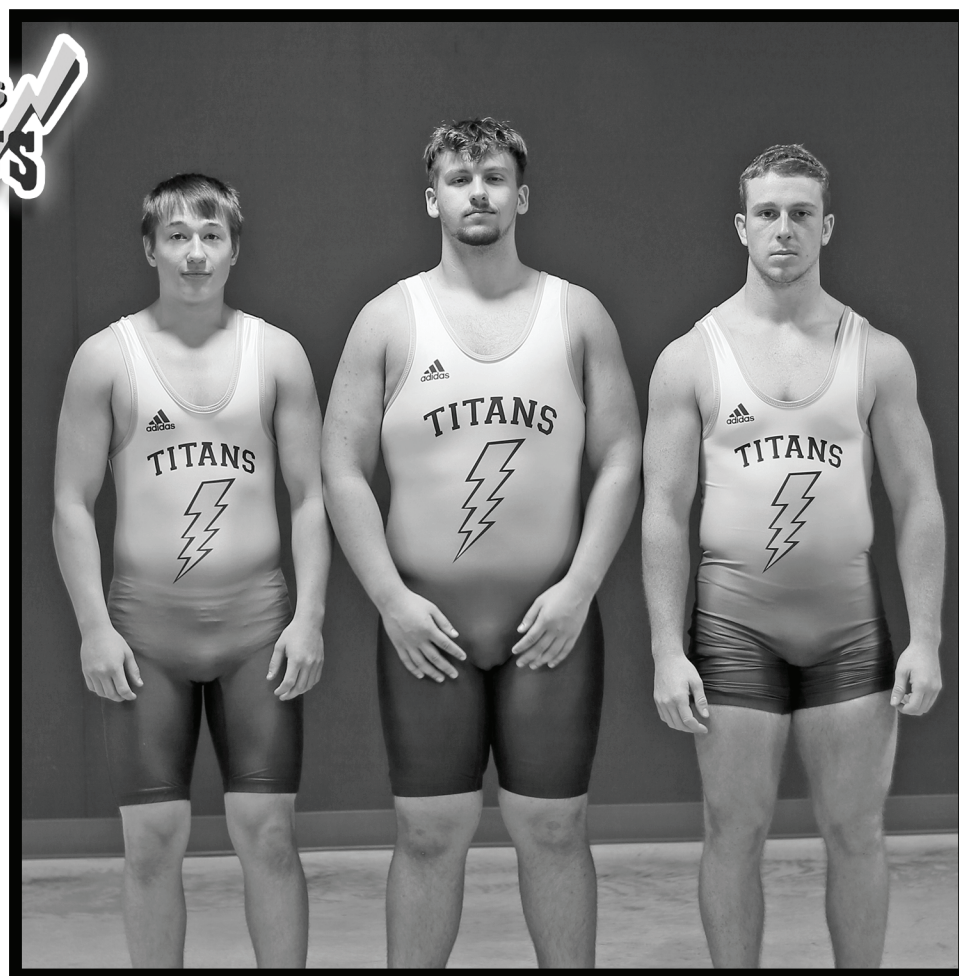
Coach Maloley has high hopes for Ty Faulks and Andy Maloley. He said Faulks "looks slimmer and quicker this year and should reach 100 wins."

When talking about Andy, Coach Maloley said, "last year, he was 42-11 at 170; he will be wrestling 195-220 and should reach his 100th win."

Both wrestlers have the potential to be on the mats at the CHI Health Center in February, competing for a state medal.

"We only have three wrestlers this year," said Coach Maloley. "So, you hope the boys can compete at a high level, but it will be difficult."

The season opened on Thursday, December 1, with a dual at Freeman High School. HTRS/PC will be at Sabetha on Saturday, December 10, at 9:00 a.m.



(L-R) FRONT ROW: Jesse McLaughlin, Ty Faulks, Andy Maloley

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W/L • Score	2022 TITAN WRESTLING		
Dec. 1	@	Freeman (HS) Dual Tourney	4:30pm
Dec. 3	@	Conestoga (HS) Invitational	9:00am
Dec. 10	@	Sabetha (HS) Invitational	9:00am
Dec. 15	@	Louisville @ JCC (HS) Tri	5:30pm
Dec. 17	@	JCC (MS) Invitational	9:30am
Dec. 30	vs	Falls City Dual	5:30pm
Jan. 6, 7	@	Tri County (HS) Invitational	2:00pm
Jan. 14	@	Cross-County (HS) Invitational	9:00am
Jan. 20	@	Louisville (HS) Invitational	2:30pm
Jan. 23	@	JV Weeping Water (HS) Invite	3:00pm
Feb. 3	@	Fairbury (HS)	1:30pm
Feb. 10, 11		Districts-TBA	TBD
Feb. 16, 17, 18		State @ CHI Center-Omaha	TBD

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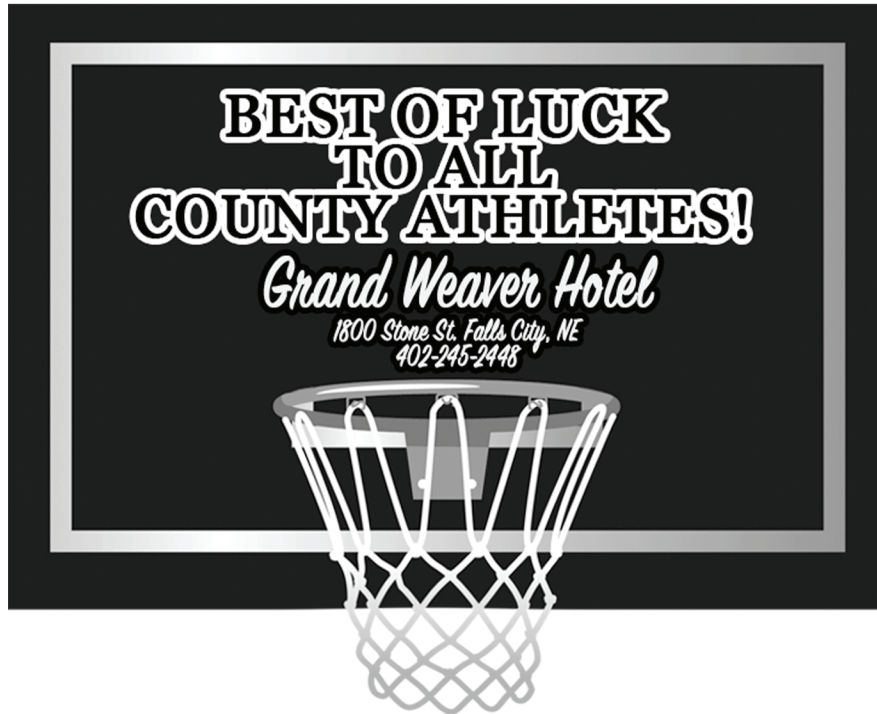
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Good Luck County Athletes During The Coming Season!

Irish Girls Basketball continued from page 7

The Irish open the season at Sterling on Friday, December 2. Sacred Heart was 3-0 against the Jets last winter, including a 48-38 in the semi-finals at state last year. Sacred Heart's first home contest will be Tuesday, December 6, against Nebraska City Lourdes. The Irish will participate in the Freeman Holiday Tournament on December 29 and 30, the MUDECAS Tourney from January 9-14 and the Pioneer Conference Tourney from January 30 to February 4.



Titan Girls Basketball continued from page 11

"Lillian is a great athlete who plays aggressive defense and runs well in transition," said Kuhlmann. "Maddie is a quick guard who can handle the ball well and does a good job distributing the ball. Kenadi works hard and might be our only true post-player on the team. She had a soft touch around the rim and can hopefully help us down low this year."

It won't be easy this season, but look for the Titans to fight all season long and show improvement as the year develops.

"We have a hungry group who just want to get better every single day," said Coach Kuhlmann. "One thing we talk about a lot is building a competitive culture. Hard work is contagious."

The Titans open the season against Diller-Odell on Friday, December 2. The Griffins have won 14 consecutive season-openers against the Titans. HTRS will take on the Lewiston Tigers, on December 6 in Lewiston. HTRS will play in the Weeping Water Holiday Tourney on December 29 and 30, the MUDECAS Tourney in Beatrice from January 9 to January 14 and the Pioneer Conference Tourney from January 30 to February 4.

"We'll have specific goals for FT% and turnovers and things like that," said Coach Kuhlmann. "But the overall theme is just improving every time we step into the gym."

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Tiger Wrestling continued from page 12

“As a whole, we struggled offensively on our feet and scoring points quickly,” said coach Kraft. “We definitely want to be more aggressive and determine the pace of the match before our opponents can. We have some guys that are really good at this and hopefully, our younger wrestlers can learn from their experience and hard work.”

Coach Coatney kept it short and sweet when asked about the offense, “Be the hammer, not the nail.” On the defensive side of the mat, Kraft stated, “We struggle with giving up easy takedowns a lot of the time or getting caught in bad situations. We looked hesitant on our feet and let our opponents dictate the match. We want our wrestlers to turn defense into offense; looking to score more from that position will put us in much better situations throughout the year.”

According to coach Kraft, Falls City will have a great group of kids with a lot of mat experience.

“We have the largest group of freshmen we’ve had in quite a few years,” said Kraft. “All that had very successful middle school careers.”

The Tigers will have holes to fill, but with any luck, some of the newcomers on the roster will step up and fill those spots and help FC have a better season than last year.

“You’re trying to find the guys and girls that never stop practicing hard, never stop pushing themselves or their teammates and are always striving to be better,” said Kraft.

The season opens with a home dual against Syracuse on December 1, 2022, at 6:00 PM. FC hosts Auburn and Platteview for a triangular on January 3, 2023, Nebraska City on January 5, and will host the ECNC Dual Tournament on February 3, 2023, at Prichard Auditorium.

“We are looking to start where we finished last year at a very high level,” said Kraft. “Losing two seniors that were up on the podium at every meet is tough to replace. However, we think we have guys in different positions this year to make us a very successful team. We want to defend our ECNC title and as always, we want more state qualifiers and state medalists than the year before.”



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WINTER SPORTS SPECIAL:
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Tiger Boys Basketball continued from page 3

Tournament on December 29 and 30, 2022. FC will also play in the Fairfax Tourney scheduled for January 9 to January 14, 2023. The ECNC Tourney will take place from January 30 thru February 4 and the Class C-1 sub-district will begin on February 20, 2023.

“I want to develop a team that serves others, displays gratitude, shows humility, plays with passion and is united together,” said Coach Miller. “I want our team to play simple, solid and sound basketball.”

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Titan Boys Basketball continued from page 5

HTRS opens the season on the road against Diller-Odell on December 2, 2022, and the following night the Titans have their home opener against Weeping Water. HTRS will compete in the Weeping Water Holiday Tourney on December 29 and 30, will play at MUDECAS from January 9-14 and in the Pioneer Conference Tourney from January 30 to February 4.

“Pioneer Conference is always tough,” said Coach Schardt. “We hope to surprise some people, maybe in the MUDECAS Tourney.”

The Titans will also have one or two foreign exchange students trying to learn the American rules and style of play this season on the court.

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