



SPRING

SPORTS

PREVIEW 2024

The
Brookings
Register

Bobcat track looks to hit its stride this season

By **CHRIS SCHAD**
The Register

BROOKINGS – The Brookings Bobcats will look to improve throughout the year as the track and field team prepares for the 2024 spring season.

The Bobcats are led by Jason Sebern who is in his 26th season with the program after taking over as head coach in 1999. Sebern will have plenty of help on his staff including assistants Joe Fredrickson, Vonda Bjorklund, Addison DeHaven, Jim Hazelton, Scott Miller and Lisa Bahe as they look to get the best out of a roster that includes over 120 kids.

“It’s a great group of kids,” Sebern said of this year’s team. “Like every year, we’re trying to improve every week throughout the season and we’re trying to improve from year to year so the kids have their personal bests that they’re trying to improve upon and our relay teams are trying to do the same throughout

the season.”

The Bobcats will lose a couple of key athletes including state place winner Sam Conrad and Maddix Archer, who finished second in the girls’ 200-meter dash at the State Meet last year and was a key member of the relay teams. Gracie Adamson is also a key loss after placing in the discus at the State Meet last spring.

But while the Bobcats lost some talent, they have a lot of strengths this year. One of the most notable areas is in the boys’ distance events which include Jon Kahler, who finished eighth in the 800 meter at the Ruth Marske Invitational in Brookings on Mar. 30, Trevin Loundsbury, Alex Diersen, Shane Harming and Ernest Ting, who placed eighth in the 800-meter run at last year’s State Meet.

The Bobcats also will return Logan Smidt, who placed sixth at last year’s State Meet and Cole Hockett and Nathan Smith, who

were part of last year’s 4x400 meter relay team along with outgoing seniors Cody Vertin and Wyatt Hockett that set a school record last season.

“We have a good mix of experienced kids and newcomers,” Sebern said. “Track and field is a participation sport, so we usually get a big turnout and this year is no different than in past years.”

Sebern also complimented the character of this year’s team after completing their service project by collecting non-perishable food for the Brookings County Food Pantry.

“I was just really impressed by the kindness and sincerity of this group of kids,” Sebern said. “It makes me feel pretty good about our future as a community.”

Brookings established a solid starting point with their first meet of the year and are looking to improve as the season goes along. With plenty of talent in Class A, the Bobcats are focused on themselves and are hoping it leads to big gains by the end of the year.

“We had a good effort at that first meet and the kids that competed did really well,” Sebern said. “We have a baseline and now we just need to improve upon that with each meet.”



Mike Carrol/Huron Daily Plainsman

Brookings’ Kennedy Ronning does the pole vault during a meet at Brookings High School on May 16, 2023.



Chris Schad/Register

Brookings’ Gavin Anderson runs during a meet at the Sanford Jackrabbit Athletic Complex in Brookings on March 24.

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Troy Maroney/Maroney's Mughshots

Front row - Lexi Norgard, Clare Strong, Mischa Janssen, Elise Lefers, Alaina Evans, Logan Smidt, Amari Ward, Kendis Sackreiter, Yar Akon, Shauna Pederson and Anon Zokou; Second row - Kennedy Ronning, Brynnelea Peterson, Adilynn Gundvalson, Emily Schulte, Emmy Kjelden, Anja Toft, Cierra Strand, Amber Brockberg, Karly Brinkman, Brooklyn Burris and Cadence Dauer; Third row - Isabella Park, Ava Flaskey, Quinn Ulvestad, Kaylie Kuehl, Isabel Overby, Nevaeh Hintz, Bailey TeKrony, Luci Siemonsma, Oliva Hawks, Grace Vostad, Rachel Malenke and Brooklyn Ballis; Fourth row - Gabby Bryant, Kate Struck, Josie Nold, Shae Lefers, Ava Petterson, Claire Bisgard, Nevaeh Strohfus, Sophia Schmit, Addison Smetana, Brielle Smetana and Caroline Schefers; Fifth row - Marlee Skinner, Charley Heller, Logyn Grygiel, Carmen Neiswonger, Riley Fooks, Ariana Funderburg, Joey Bear Hill, Nayree Muñoz, Taira Buus, Natalie Kahler and Rylee Briggs; Back row - Student Manager Ellyana Stahl, Asst. Coach Vonda Bjorklund, Asst. Coach Lisa Bahe, Asst. Coach Scott Miller, Asst. Coach Addison DeHaven, Asst. Coach Travis Engebretson, Asst. Coach Jim Hazelton, Head Coach Jason Sebern and Student Manager Anika Webster.



Troy Maroney/Maroney's Mughshots

Front row - Elie Wongondombi, Ren Jacobsen, Griffen Suarez, Jordan Mofle, Joey Fitzpatrick, Jacob York, Nathan Smith, Luke Hanson and Luke Schmit; Second row - Mason Mathis, Dagi Thomas, Charlie Bisgard, Josiah Thomas, Blake Kannegeiter, Gavin Anderson, Alex Wainman, Jacksen Bastemeyer, Oliver Cook, Sirius Harming and Nye Madit; Third row - Cole Hockett, James Fitzpatrick, Jack Griggs, Abram Bucholz, Kavish Salunke, William Jin, Madit Madit, Preston Beringer, Emerson Gross and Brady Halsey; Fourth row - Eli Hawks, Trevin Lounsbury, Marco Springman, Jon Kahler, Ernest Ting, Shane Harming, Seth Vogt, Jack Bierman, Kingston Fallis and Murtadha Jodhari; Fifth row - Cole Skyberg, Owen Burns, Nash Burdick, Griffen Bartels, Miles Even, Owen Hoppe, Gustavo Armenta, Michael Nelson, Isaiah Vogt, Alex Diersen and Victor Ramirez; Back row - Student Manager Ellyana Stahl, Asst. Coach Vonda Bjorklund, Asst. Coach Lisa Bahe, Asst. Coach Scott Miller, Asst. Coach Addison DeHaven, Asst. Coach Travis Engebretson, Asst. Coach Jim Hazelton, Head Coach Jason Sebern and Student Manager Anika Webster.

Bobcats look to continue rich baseball tradition

BY CHRIS SCHAD
The Register

BROOKINGS – The Brookings Bobcats will have a new face in the dugout this spring but head coach Carter Roach hopes to keep the Bobcats tradition alive as they open the 2024 season.

Roach has been coaching baseball since he was an assistant for Yankton during the 2020 season. Roach spent the 2021 season as an assistant for the Brookings Bandits Post 12 Legion team and was the head coach for the 2022 and 2023 seasons.

Roach replaces Ryan Bauer as the head coach for the spring season but is looking to continue the Bobcats' history of success on the diamond.

"I'm very excited and very fortunate to get handed such a tradition with a lot of wins," Roach said. "I'm excited about putting the two teams together and it's a cool ordeal because our team is pretty similar from the spring to the summer. So it's just kind of nice of having the reins of both teams and keep it in one direction which we have done a good job of in the past but now we just have a similar face for both programs."

Roach inherits a talented group that went 13-9 last spring but lost some key faces including first baseman Justin Coffell, pitcher Nathan Lease and short-stop Zach Struck. The Bobcats will also be without senior Breck Hirschoff, who pitched and played for the spring season due to his commitment to play hock-



Chris Schad/Register

Photo Captions: Front Row (L to R): Will Conrad, Austin Clark, Sam Johnson, Jack Merritt, Tyson Antonen, Ryan Lockrem. Back Row: William Valle, Winston Plummer, David Brink, Addison Ronning, Owen Schneider, Tate Helmbolt, Nolan Miles, Tane Friedrich.

ey for the Sioux Falls POWER but they have a group of seniors ready to fill those voids.

Owen Schnieder and David Brink will be middle-of-the-order bats for the Bobcats while Nolan Miles, Austin Clark and Tate Helmbolt also are poised to be key contributors this spring.

"I'm excited for the next group of seniors," Roach said. "We have some guys who practiced last year and got some playing time but this year, their roles will increase. I'm

excited for those guys who will have opportunities who didn't get to play as much last year."

While the Bobcats should have plenty of offense at the plate, Roach was also excited about the team's defense even with some questions on the mound after the departures of Lease and Hirschoff.

"Defense is always something that we hang our hat on," Roach said. "The teams that I've been a part of, we've always found a

way to defend well and I would say it's going to be a strong suit for us again as we navigate our way through."

One of the challenges will be a new playoff format which has expanded the State Tournament from four to eight teams. With a best-of-three playoff series to get to the tournament, the Bobcats are looking forward to building off their legion performance last summer which saw them advance to the state championship game

last August.

"With the experiences from last spring and summer, I see us stacking up somewhere in that top eight," Roach said. "I think that's every coach's idea for their team every year, so being somewhere in that top eight and getting the state tournament is our main goal and we'll see what we can do when we get there."

The Bobcats are scheduled to open the season with a double-header in Huron on Apr. 4.

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Bobcat golf returns to fundamentals on the course

BY CHRIS SCHAD
The Register

BROOKINGS – The Brookings Bobcats are looking forward to returning to the links this spring but a batch of new faces will emphasize perfecting the fundamentals as they begin the 2023-24 season.

“It will be a little bit of a rebuilding year and we have a lot of young girls,” Brookings head coach Holly Sebern said of this year’s team. “Our strength though is that they get along really well and the things we need to go back to are the fundamentals.”

The Bobcats lost Kyra McClemans and Jaden Devine from last year’s team but have some senior leadership in Delilah Fuls. Fuls finished ninth as an individual at last year’s State Tournament and is looking to have a strong senior season ahead of her commitment to play golf at the University of Sioux Falls.

“Her strength is her confidence,” Sebern said of Fuls. “She’s strong. She hits it straight and she hits it far. Her putting is really good and she’s really got everything to her game. She’s our No. 1 player and if she can just kind of keep the troops rallied that will help a lot.”

Fuls will be joined by Kamryn Streich and Miyah Foerster, who both qualified for the State Tournament last season but there are new faces throughout the roster including senior Taylor O’Neil and Aubrey Knutzen.

Together, Sebern believes there



Chris Schad/Register

Front Row (L to R): Tatum McEntee, Taylor O’Neil, Maya Gent, Josie Bertrand, Libby Merritt, Tyanna McClemens, Yuki Zhu. Back Row: Lauren Jones, Rayanna Rohl, Kamryn Streich, Aubrey Knutzen, Delilah Fuls, Miyah Foerster, Lada Senchenko. Not Pictured: Lauren Bortnem, Tatum Thompson.

will be some learning process at the beginning of the year but hopes her team can improve as the season progresses.

“It’s a hard sport and a lot of the girls don’t play all through the summer,” Sebern said. “So we’ll have to start out strong with the fundamentals and make sure that when we get to practice outside, we practice with purpose and refine our game.”

Sebern also said that the youth is a positive aspect to the season and many of the girls on the team have played throughout the summer to give them a head start.

“You can see the progress when you work with girls that have played all summer,” Sebern said. “They get excited every time they shoot a better score and they just kind of build on that. That’s what’s fun about a rebuilding season.”

The Eastern South Dakota Conference also has plenty of competition this year. The Bobcats qualified for the State Tournament as a team last year but was joined by several conference rivals including Mitchell, who won the state championship last spring and Aberdeen Central, who finished as the Class AA runner-up.

“I just want to maintain what we did last year,” Sebern said. “We

ended up having a good end of the season last year and my goal is to just get better throughout the year. As long as we are at practice and we’re doing what we need to do and get better each meet... I just want to be competitive and I want the girls to improve.”

The Bobcats are scheduled to open the season in a triangular with Sioux Falls Roosevelt and Sioux Falls Washington on Apr. 9.



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Bobcat tennis looks to reach potential this spring

By CHRIS SCHAD
The Register

BROOKINGS – The Brookings Bobcats return several players this spring and with a few new faces mixed in, head coach Brian Dobbs hopes his team will reach its potential as they open the 2023-24 season.

“Our goal is just for each player to reach their potential,” Dobbs said. “We want them to play as many matches as possible, just enjoy tennis and try to finish as high as we can.”

Dobbs is entering his 21st season leading the Brookings tennis program and will be assisted by Brenna Lange(CHECK!). The Bobcats had a 1-15 but had plenty of young players gain experience throughout the season.

Braylon Peters, Carson Kreie, J.C. St. Pierre and Xavier St. Pierre return from last year’s team and will be joined by some new faces this spring. Among them is foreign exchange student Stefan Nikolic, who should compete for a spot toward the top of the lineup.

“We’ve got a lot of juniors that have experience, so we’re not really young,” Dobbs said.

“We’ve got some upperclassmen and we’ve got some returning varsity players. So we’re going to be pretty decent and have some experience in the lower flights.”

The battle in the early weeks will revolve around the sixth spot where several sophomores including Zachary Mueller,



Chris Schad/Register

Front row (left to right): Jack Tanner, Caylon Peters, Liam McCausland, Braden Hostad, Jack Woodard, Thomas Bozied. Middle row: Kerrick Zhang, Kasen Fixen, Zach Mueller, Henry Stedman, Eli Zenfai. Back row: Braylon Peters, Stefan Nikolic, Crosby Reusch, Andrew Hahn, Carson Kreie, Donovan Gloege.

Henry Stedman and Kasen Fixen and eighth grader Kerrick Chang will battle to be the final player on the varsity team.

“We’re still playing matches to see who will be where this year,” Dobbs said. “We’ve got a handful of kids that are all very close to each other and any of

them could be in that sixth spot on the varsity team.”

While the Bobcats will have plenty of experience, they’ll also have plenty of competition within the conference. Yankton, Brandon Valley, Aberdeen, Watertown, Harrisburg, Sioux Falls Lincoln,

Sioux Falls Washington, Sioux Falls Jefferson and Sioux Falls Roosevelt all field deep teams, but Dobbs feels that there will be enough of an improvement to climb to the middle of the pack.

“It might be a struggle for us to get into the top half, but I’m hoping we’ll be more in the

middle rather than at the bottom like we were last year,” Dobbs said.

The Bobcats are scheduled to open the season with a triangular against O’Gorman and Brandon Valley at McKennan Park in Sioux Falls on Apr. 5.

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Bobcat softball looks to capture a state title in 2024

By **CHRIS SCHAD**
The Register

BROOKINGS—One year ago, the Brookings Bobcats were runner-up at the State Softball Tournament. In its first year as a sanctioned sport, the Bobcats were one of the best teams in South Dakota posting a 16-4 record and winning the Eastern South Dakota Conference title before falling to Sioux Falls Lincoln in the championship game.

While the Bobcats are proud of what they achieved, their bar is even higher in 2024 as they look to take home a state title.

“We’re hungry to win this year,” Brookings head coach Emma Hardin said of her team’s goals in its second year. “It wasn’t good enough just to make it to the state championship and be ESD champs. We want to be ESD champs and state champs, so I think that’s our goal and what we are hungry for.”

Hardin returns for her second season with the Bobcats along with assistant coach Alex DeGroot.

A former Bobcats standout and SDSU pitcher, Hardin has plenty of experience coaching U10, U12 and U14 levels before taking over the Brookings program one year ago.

Hardin’s second year will include managing some turnover as the Bobcats lost All-State pitcher Gracie Adamson and All-ESD selection and All-State honorable mention catcher Morgan Linstad from last season.

“They are both a tough loss for us,” Hardin said. “Gracie was outstanding on the mound and great with the bat and Morgan had a huge bat for us as well, so we kind of lost our battery heading into the season.”

With Ava Sandine, Tess Penske, Madison Penske and Maya Erickson also graduating, there are plenty of holes to fill in the lineup. Still, Hardin believes there are plenty of players on the roster who can step into new roles.

The first name Hardin mentioned was junior Tess Burns, who will be the Bobcats’ primary starter to begin the season. Hardin praised Burns’s performance in the circle as well as



Chris Schad/Register

Back row (left to right): Layla Erickson, Addison Sneer, Kymber Buys, Sydney Bebensee, Addy Bortnem, Tessa Twedt, Tess Burns, Zoe Miller, Reece Christenson, Kate Jewett. Front row: Layla Jacobsma, Hailey Stimson, Macaulley Coble, Megan Wadsworth, Kylie Moe, Olivia Hove, Keisha Cushing, Morgan Norgaard, Quinn Kurtenbach.

this year.

“I’m hoping she can step up to that role that Gracie played as our ace last year,” Hardin said. “She’s been working a lot to get movement and that change of speed, so it’s been really fun for her.”

Hardin also was excited about the potential of infielder Morgan N o r g a a r d who was an All-ESD and All-State selection after hitting .407/.493/.695 as a sophomore last season. Norgaard played shortstop a year ago but her versatility could come into play with some time at catcher this season.

“She has a great bat and a great arm,” Hardin said. “It’s exciting for her to get to do a little bit of both this year and be versatile for us.”

The Bobcats will also have Tessa Twedt, who is committed to playing softball at Black Hills State and will slot in at first base.

“She’s a great leader and understands the game really well,” Hardin said. “Her hitting has come a long way this offseason, so it’s going to be fun for her to showcase it a little more this year.”

Second baseman Kylie Moe will play at second base as well as pitcher for Brookings this season and sophomore Kymber Buys will join seniors Sydney Bebensee and Megan Wadsworth in the outfield.

With junior Keisha Cushing and freshman Leila Jacobs also expected to get playing time, Hardin sees a deep team that should have a little more speed coming into this season.

“Last year we didn’t have a lot

of speed, so I’m hoping to play a little short game and continue to be power hitters,” Hardin said. “I think that we’re going to get around the bases with some home runs as well but I also think we have some good gloves. I’m excited to see them showcase what they can do.”

The all-around game of the Bobcats should prove well against the competition in Class AA. While Brookings will have to earn their way back to the state tournament, Hardin believes her team can not only get to where they were a year ago but take another step forward and win the championship this spring.

“If you ask any coach, they want to be at the top,” Hardin said. “That’s where I’m hoping to be again. I tell the girls all the time that how we do anything is how we do everything and we’re really focusing on the little things this year to get us back to the state championship game and help us win it this year.”



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Andrew Holtan/Register

Brookings third baseman Nolan Miles prepares to throw the ball across the diamond during a game against Huron at Bob Shelden Field in Brookings on May 14, 2023.

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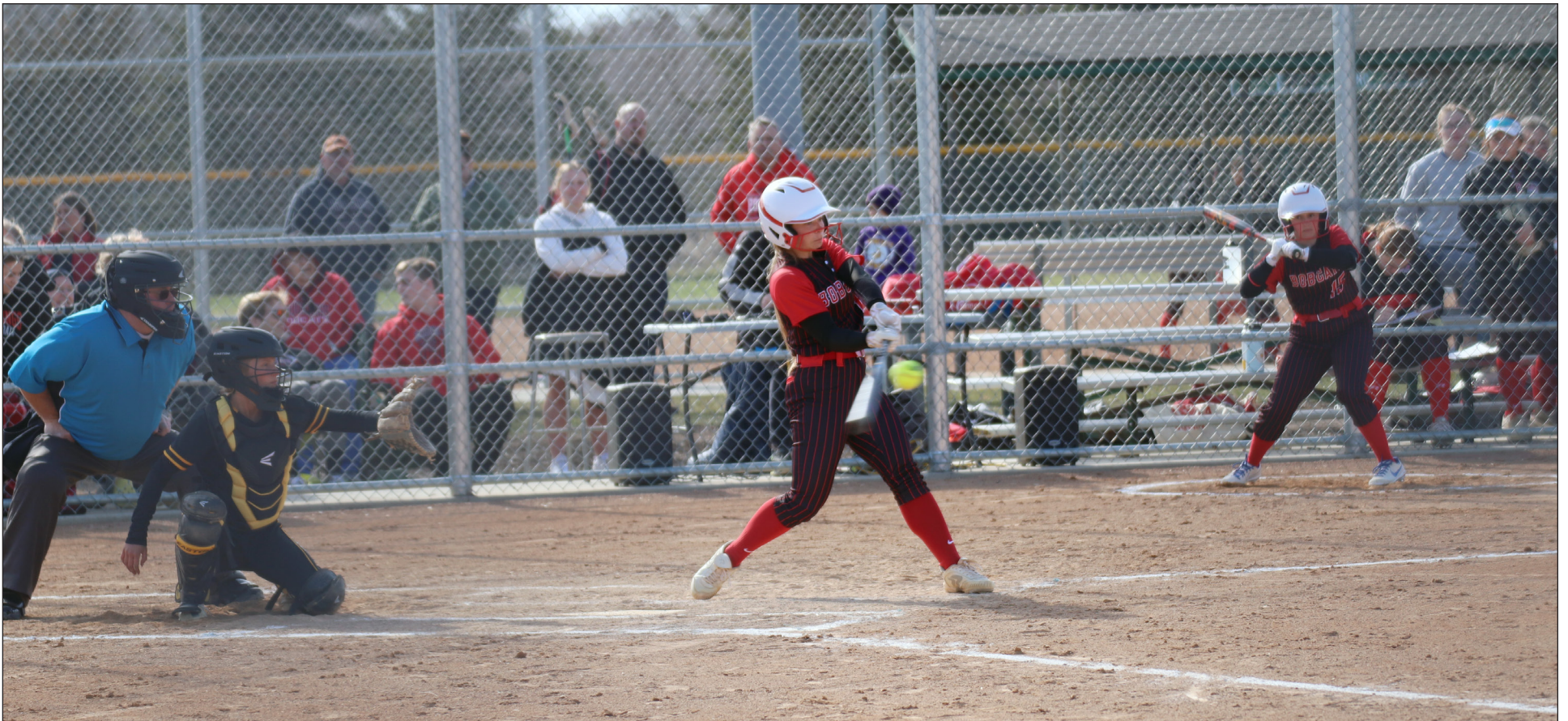
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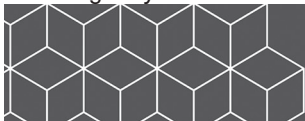
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Andrew Holtan/Register

Brookings' Kylie Moe hits the ball during a game against Mitchell at the Southbrook Softball Complex on April 25, 2023.



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Mike Carroll/Huron Daily Plainsman

Brookings' Kyra McClems putts the ball during a tournament at the Broadland Creek Golf Course in Huron on April 27, 2023.



South Dakota Public Broadcasting

Brookings swings at the ball during the South Dakota Girls Golf State Tournament at the Hillcrest Country Club in Yankton on June 6, 2023.



South Dakota Public Broadcasting

Brookings' Andrew Hahn hits the ball during a match at the Hillcrest Tennis Courts on April 13, 2023. The Bobcats opened the 2024 season on April 5 in Sioux Falls.



South Dakota Public Broadcasting

Brookings' Braylon Peters hits the ball during a match against Sioux Falls Jefferson at the Hillcrest Tennis Courts on May 12, 2023.



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Sioux Valley Track & Field

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Assistant Coaches: Chad Guthmiller and Taylor Ash

Boys

2023 Recap: Region 2A champions. Also won the Big East Conference and Lake Central Conference. Had many State qualifiers including a state place winner in the hurdle races and 4x100 meter relay. Had some outstanding jumpers that qualified for State.

Top Athletes Lost: Connor Gross

Returning Athletes:

Donovan Rose is returning State qualifier in hurdle races. The Cossacks also return members of state qualifying 4x100, 4x200, 4x440, Medley and 4x800 relays and State qualifiers in the jumps.

Strengths: We return a lot of experience and will have enough depth to fill all of the events.

Weaknesses: We will want to develop some relays that are capable of placing at state. We also want to become strong in the throws especially with the addition

of the javelin.

Coach Comments: We are one of the favorites in our conferences and area. We are excited for the start of the season! Our expectations continue to grow in our track and field program therefore we hope for an exciting State Meet at the conclusion of the season.

Girls

2023 Recap: Lake Central Conference Champions, Big East Conference Champions, Region Runner Up, and fourth at State Track Meet.

Top Athletes Lost:

Landree Wilson, Mercedes VanderWal, Ashley Bjerke and Kendra Hiltentun.

Returns: Isabelle Bloker (first in the 1600, first in the 3200, third Medley Relay) Adison Renkly (second 100 Hurdles, fifth Triple Jump, third Medley Relay), Talya Vincent (third Medley Relay, 3200 Relay), Emma Gorvin - High Jump, Abby Haaland - Triple Jump, Liberty Trygstad - 3200 Relay.

Strengths: We have a good group of girls with state meet experience and hopefully they can contin-

ue to improve and influence their teammates to work hard. Hopefully that hard work makes us competitive at the conference and state levels.

Coach Comments: We will be returning a good group of girls with state meet experience. I hope to rebuild in some areas and hope to defend both the Lake Central Conference and Big East Conference titles. I think we have a competitive group and hope that we can have another competitive season.



South Dakota Public Broadcasting

Sioux Valley's Donovan Rose runs in the 100 meter dash at the State Track Meet at Howard Wood Field in Sioux Falls on May 17.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Sioux Valley's Isabelle Bloker runs in the 1,600 meter run during a meet at the Sanford Jackrabbit Athletic Complex in Brookings on April 3.



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Andrew Holtan/Register

Sioux Valley's Adison Renkly jumps over a hurdle during a track meet at Sioux Valley High School in Volga in 2022.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Sioux Valley's Skylar Trygstad runs during a meet at Sioux Valley High School in Volga on May 2, 2023.

Sioux Valley Softball

Head Coach: Tatum Sonnenburg

Assistant Coaches: Carissa Hageman and Tess Pantzke

2023 Recap: This is the first year of the softball program for Sioux Valley. The Cossacks

are looking to build from past experiences from playing on various club and rec teams.

Strengths: We have a very diverse team with many different backgrounds in playing fastpitch softball. Our players

are willing to learn and try new things, making them very coachable.

Weakness: We are a new program so one weakness might be that we are less experienced as a whole team in a

school sport atmosphere.

Coach Comments: I am excited for the opportunity to share my knowledge and experiences with these young athletes. I look forward to watching them grow and

develop as student athletes. Lastly, we appreciate the support we have had this far in getting the program started and look forward to what the season has to offer us!

Sioux Valley Girls Golf



Andrew Holtan/Register

Sioux Valley's Riley Stirling admires a putt during a tournament on May 15, 2023.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Sioux Valley's Caitlyn Craddock follows through on a putt during a tournament on May 15, 2023.

Head Coach: Jeremy Bachman
2023 Recap: Three State

qualifiers. Finished fifth in Region 2A and won the Lake Central Conference

Meet.
Top Athletes Lost: Laryn Stevens and Haylee Bohnet

Top Returners: Caitlyn Craddock, who qualified for State. Keyra Kruse and

Lillie Noble.

Deubrook Area Boys Track & Field

Head Coach: Brad DeBeer
Assistant Coaches: Rachelle DeBeer, Haley Lunden, Paul Ekern, Lucas Trooien and Nathan Lamb

2023 Recap: Finished third in the Class B as a team at the state meet. Was runner-up at the Dakota Valley Conference meet. Won two relays (4x400

and 4x800) at the state meet as well as seven individual medal winners.

Top Athletes Lost: Treven Grimsrud, Colin Bauman, Richie Meyer, Gunnar Trooien and Lukas Ekern.

Top Returners: Colton Trooien, JP Rogness, Jace Vomacka, Dylan Rios, Riley

Nichus, Jake Jorenby, Charlie Olsen, Lincoln Bauer, Axel Trooien, Ray Klein, Devon Landmark, Gage Landmark and Tyrus Schulz. Gavin Landmark, Landen Johnson and Jaxon Quail were on the relay teams that won state titles last season.

Strengths: We are very

strong in the 200, 400 and 800 as well as the 1,600. We should be very competitive in the 4x400, 4x800 and medley relays. We have quality athletes who will compete with the top 15 throwers and jumpers in Class B.

Coach Comments: We have a great group of guys that are

willing to work hard in practice and compete with each other everyday to be better. I look forward to watching them develop and get better as they continue to train and get in better shape. It's a fun time to be a part of Dolphin track & field!

Deubrook Area Girls Track & Field

Head Coach: Rachelle DeBeer

Assistant Coaches: Brad DeBeer, Paul Ekern, Haley Scalise, Lucas Trooien and Nathan Lamb

2023 Recap: The Dolphins are the defending state track meet runners-up. 2023 SDCCTFCA Combined team champions. The coolest moment was when both our boys and girls won both the 3200 and 1600 relays. Winning the combined team award was also a cherry on the top for these kids and our coaching staff.

Top Athletes Lost: Ava

Leen, Brooke Koppatschek (placed medley 800 re, 1600 re), Joeve Krier, Miranda Moravetz (placed medley and 800 re), Ellie Olsen (second 400, third 800, 1600, 3200 re), Skyla Petersen and Catherine Klein.

Top Returners: Kylee Johnson (freshman), Makenna Ekern (freshman), and Nora Olsen (eighth) return from the state champion 3200 relay team in 2023. Kylee Johnson (freshman) and Kadence Bowne (senior) return from the state 1600 m relay champions 2023. Johnson also placed 8th in the 800, and Olsen placed 6th in the mile. Bowne and Johnson also

return from the medley relay that placed 4th at the state meet a year ago. Delaney Pedersen (senior) and Bowne also return from the 800 relay that placed 6th at the state meet. Akasha Gorecki (senior) placed 6th in the triple jump at the state meet. Kiana Schmit was a state qualifier in the shot put, and Zoey Molengraaf placed in the unofficial state javelin event.

Strengths: Our girls and boys work incredibly hard, and it is so fun to watch them compete in practice. We do everything together with the boys and girls programs. These kids challenge each other and

push each other. These kids are also very supportive of each other. We also have a dedicated coaching staff that works well with these athletes. We have some big shoes to fill this year. I am also excited about our throwers this year. I think we have some talented throwers that are really going to help our team this year. We are excited about the potential of many of our youngsters. We have a supportive athletic director who is very flexible with meet schedules when the weather does not cooperate. We also have 60 boys and girls out in grades 7-12 which makes us

use our five coaches creatively, but we are happy to have the numbers.

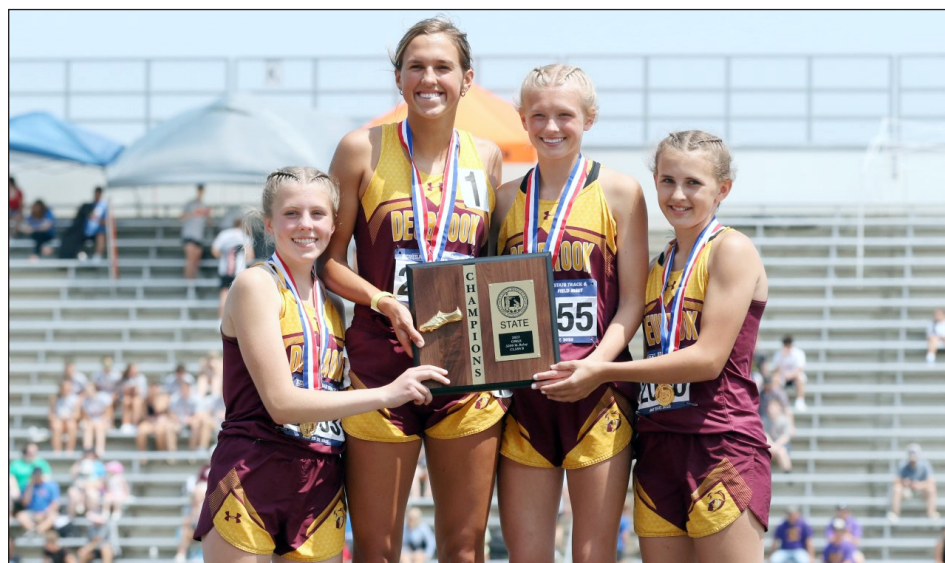
Weakness: We are not very deep numbers wise on the girls side.

Coach Comments: I am truly so excited and blessed to coach this team. We have great kids who are excited for track which is a contagious attitude for our youth. We have a great mix of youth and some experience. We have a lot of question marks this season, but that also makes it fun to see these girls compete for spots on relays.



South Dakota Public Broadcasting

The Deubrook Area 4x800 boys relay team poses with the trophy after winning the relay race at the State Track Meet at Howard Wood Field in Sioux Falls on May 17, 2023.



South Dakota Public Broadcasting

The Deubrook Area 4x800 girls relay team poses with the trophy after winning the relay race at the State Track Meet at Howard Wood Field in Sioux Falls on May 17, 2023.



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South Dakota Public Broadcasting

Deubrook Area's Bailey Landmark chips onto the green during the Class B State Golf Tournament at Edgebrook Golf Course in Brookings on June 5, 2023.



South Dakota Public Broadcasting

Deubrook Area's Colton Trooien runs during a relay race at a meet at the Sanford Jackrabbit Athletic Complex in Brookings on April 3, 2023.

Deubrook Area Golf

Head Coach: Noah Jewett
Assistant Coach: Cade Falor

2023 Recap: Had two boys qualify for State and the boys team was only a few strokes off from qualify-

ing as a team. The boys got third as a team at regions. They were second as a team at regions, all four girls qualified for State as individuals. We had a first time girl golfer that qualified for State

last year.

Top Athletes Lost: Bailey Landmark, Allison Andrews, Cody Schulz and Anders Sandro

Top Returners: Connor Andrews, Gavin Landmark

and Brynlee Hason. All of them qualified for State last season.

Strengths: Having two returning state qualifiers for the boys will be a strength.

Weakness: Both boys and

girls will be young, losing two senior boys and girls will hurt. Some younger kids will have to step up, but I think we have kids willing to accept the challenge.

Arlington Softball

Head Coach: DeDe Schmidt
Assistant Coaches: Tara King, Kelli VanOverbeke and Jesse VanOverbeek

2023 Recap: Went 16-5. Finished in third place at the Class B State Tournament. Taya Clausen and Brenley

Goebel were both All-State Tournament. Harley Johnson was All-State.

Top Athletes Lost: Pitcher Taya Clausen

Top Returners: Brenley Goebel and Harley Johnson. Our whole infield will be

returning including Issie Steffensen, Jo Steffensen and Addie Steffensen. Also two starting outfielders.

Strengths: I think it helps that we have played a season and the girls are getting back into the swing of playing soft-

ball. Also, we return most of our team from 2023- our whole infield is returning and two starting outfielders. These girls have played a lot together from volleyball to basketball and now softball. They can count on each other.

Weakness: A weakness we will have this year is our pitching, but I can tell you that these girls will give it their all so it will be interesting to see what will happen.



Arlington Track

Head Coach: Tim Boeck
Assistant Coaches: Nikki VanBockern, Kelsey Hoff, Bryce Frank and David Ulschmid

2023 Recap: Girls placed

seventh at the state meet. Chloe Raw placed 2nd in the 100m and 200m dash. Kaelyn Ulschmid placed 3rd in 1600 and 3200. Harley Johnson placed 8th in the long

jump and competed in the high jump. Harley, Chloe, Jo Steffensen and Halley Miller placed 7th in the 4x100. All place winners returning but Jo.

Strengths: We have a great group of kids that work hard and have good goals for the season,

Weakness: Depth.

Coach Comments: We

have a hard working bunch of boys and girls and we are very excited to see what each one of them will accomplish this season.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Arlington's Chloe Raw runs the 100 meter dash during a meet at the Sanford Jackrabbit Athletic Complex in Brookings on April 3, 2024.



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Flandreau Softball

Head Coach: Ryan Mallinger

Assistant Coach: Niki Mallinger

2023 Recap: Last season was a great start to what I believe to be a long-lasting program here at Flandreau High School. We started the season off on a rough note, but the girls did a great job of learning and growing as a team to help us win multiple games in the middle of the season. The high point of last season was our final game in Tea. We were competing in the SODAK 16 game against a team that had just run ruled us in the previous week. Our girls came to practice ready to work and it showed as we held Tea to 6 runs through 5 innings in our final game. It showed the true growth and maturity of our team to battle and not concede against a very good team.

Top Athletes Lost: None

Top Returners: We return almost all athletes this season including

our three team captains. Lizzie Pavlis led the way offensively last year with a .655 batting average, 34 hits, 6 homeruns, 28 runs batted in, and 18 stolen bases. Olivia Peters is our top returning pitcher after she tallied 55 innings pitched last year. She recorded 65 strikeouts while also being a team leader with a .400 batting average. Sadie Iott is the final returning captain who was a solid presence behind the dish. She caught 13 girls stealing last year while also having a .393 batting average. There are many other contributing members that we brought back this year including Addy Hammer, Aly Schepel, Nora Hamilton, and Jacey Sundermeyer.

Strengths: Team strengths include the number of girls participating. This year at our first practice we had 24 girls compared to 18 or 19 when we started last season. Another couple of strengths this team has are our pitching staff and the power of the middle



Front Row (left to right): Rory Thielsen, Vernoica Shortman, Kadin BigLeggings, Zaeda Ross, Addy Hammer. Middle Row: Jacey Sundermeyer, Julie Pitsenberger, McKenzie Gregory, Elodie Amdahl, Layla Lateral, Nora Hamilton, Hailieanne Schepel, Sadie Iott. Back Row: Aly Schepel, Jazzalyn Kampeska, Olivia Peters, Lizzie Pavlis, Patricia Roy, Adrianna Hanford, Diamond Roy, Hailey Lahr, Autumn Bosin, Lily Arnold.

of our lineup.

Weaknesses: The team's weakness we hope to address this year is the team's overall softball IQ. Last year, we had many girls that had not played competitive softball in many years or even ever-so there were times that games got away from us because we were unsure of a cutoff or baserun-

ning situation. We are hoping that returning so many girls will help us be more well equipped for the challenges this season presents.

Coach Comments: Both coaches are really looking forward to working with these athletes because the pride they have in this program is off the charts. The girls

want it for all the right reasons, and we hope that we can help them reach their goals. We understand there will be rough patches throughout this season with some tough losses, but we are hoping to be a resilient bunch that does a great job of learning and growing from our mistakes.

Flandreau Girls Golf

Head Coach: Chad Bushkofsky

Assistant Coach: Josh Cleaveland

2023 Recap: Madison Bushkofsky was the Lake Central Conference

Conference Champion and placed in multiple meets throughout the season. She went on to compete at the state level and finished 45th. Clara Kelm placed in the McCook/Montrose

Tournament.

Top Returners: Senior Clara Klem and sophomore Madison Bushkofsky

Coach Comments: I am hoping both girls will have a chance at state this year!

Both girls have experience on the course with Clara being a senior and Madison a sophomore. My plan is to work on the mental side of the game as well as spend a lot of time out on the

course. Both girls have a ton of potential and I intend to help them maximize this throughout our season.

Flandreau Track & Field

Head Coach: Owen Parsley
Assistant & Volunteer Coaches: Georgia Adolph, Scott Headrick, Jessi Giles, Liam Streitz, Lori Williams, Callie Martins, Scott Ross.

2023 Recap: The girls finished sixth in the Lake Central Conference, Boys seventh in the LCC; The girls came in seventh in the BEC, Boys sixth in the BEC. The girls team tied for 13th at the state meet out of 37 teams. Faith Wiese, Morgan Sheppard, Ella Hoffman, and Kiley Westberry earned 5th in the Medley at state, also breaking a twenty-three-year-old Flandreau school record. While placing third at state in the 1600 and 3200, Faith Wiese also broke school records in both events and also the 800, something she fully intends to improve upon this year.

Top Athletes Lost: For our Throw Show squad will miss having Katherine Kulm and Jade Stone, and our boys will miss Caleb Pitsenberger. For the Speed Pilot sprinters, our boys will have big shoes to fill with racer Ethan Hoffman no longer there to blaze 100s, 200s, and 400s.

Top Returners: Our boys squadron is glad to have seniors like mid-distance runner and hurdler Brendan Peterson, Lanz Dailey (part of our pole vault Bank Vaulters crew) and coachable Distance Destroyers Matt Gassman and Tanner Reed for one more year. We also have speedy juniors like Paul Parsley, Brenton Westberry, and Ben Kulm hoping to punch their tickets to state and bring relay members with them. Our boys Jumpin' Jets also

consists of high jumper junior Micah Otto, sophomore triple jumper Luke Sheppard, and freshman long jumper Tucker Hemmer hoping to soar to new marks this season. For our lady Fliers, we're pumped to have athletic veterans Lily Klein and Lizzie Pavlis back, ready to run and throw to the best of their abilities. For our Distance Destroyers, we have a strong lineup with juniors Josie Hamilton and Diamond Roy, sophomore Faith Wiese, and freshman Kiley Westberry ready to make noise at conference and state. We also have eighth grade sensation Morgan Sheppard back at it, hoping to crush more sprints as a Speed Pilot, along with fellow teammates sophomore Ella Hoffman, junior Morgan Kontz and Jumpin' Jet juniors Ayashi Artoz in the long jump,

Sadie Iott in the triple jump, and Mya Nichols in the high jump.

Strengths: Both of our boys and girls teams have high numbers. We are grateful to have about 55 HS athletes out this spring and we truly want to see boys and girls out competing, improving themselves, and staying healthy. With such numbers, we hope to flesh out a full meet schedule for the races, jumps, and throws. Other strengths include team leaders such as Lily Klein, Josie Hamilton, Ben Kulm, Matt Gassman, Luke Sheppard, etc. ready to show the entire team what heart and drive is all about. Our athletes are coachable and excited to compete as a team.

Weaknesses: For the boys and girls, we do lack depth in the sprint relays and we also

have a young team still learning about what it takes to go from being good athletes to great athletes, but it's already happening and will continue with time.

Coach Comments: Our theme for the season, inspired by 1 Peter 4:10, is "Use the Gift, Share the Gift" a reminder that we all have God-given abilities that we should embrace and utilize to the fullest, while also using them to benefit others. We want athletes to constantly put in a quality effort while also positively representing their team, school, and community. With a top-of-the-line coaching staff and eager, enjoyable, and hopeful athletes, I'm thoroughly excited for this upcoming mega-legit-rad track and field season. Go Fliers!

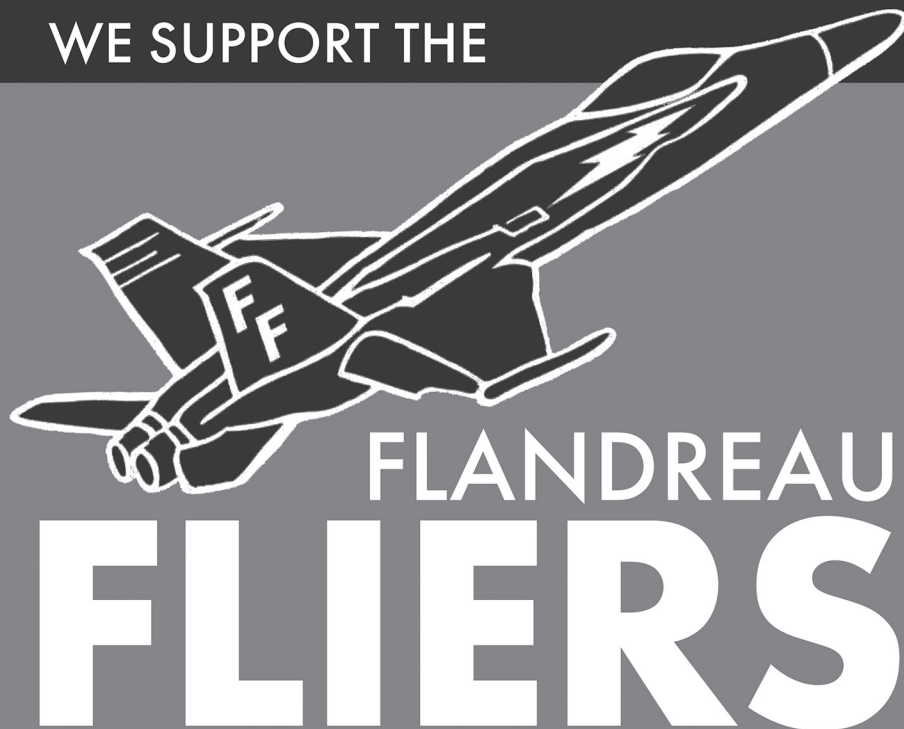


BACK ROW (left to right): Veronica Shortman, Lyla Thompson, Dreamer Cournoyer, Diamond Roy, Hailey Lahr, Faith Wiese, Lily Klein, Lizzie Pavlis, Rona Streitz. 2nd to BACK ROW: Mya Nichols, Ayashi Artoz, Josie Hamilton, Claire Wegner, Harper Pearson, Ella Hoffman, Hailianne Schepel, Sadie Iott, Juliauna Anderson. 2nd to FRONT ROW: Mia Stone, Candace Metcalf, Lozen Jones, Isla Jones, Giselle Deloera, Isabel Kulm, Emma Keith, Kiley Westberry, Ivy Wegner. FRONT ROW: Rihanna Abayon, Marlene Burshiem, Nataliya Longworth, Fawn Frias, Sierra Thielsen, Yohana Cuautle, Charlie Henderson, Emily Arnold. Not pictured: Miesha Pedraza-Felix, Morgan Sheppard, Dana Enriquez, Saige Redbear.



BACK ROW (left to right): Brenton Westberry, Micah Otto, Tucker Hemmer, Anthony Pieper, Braxten Julson, Sam Schmidt, Kenton James, Nathan Ross, Greysen Fox, Abe Streitz, Daniel Hobbie, Brendan Peterson, Tanner Reed. 2nd to BACK ROW: Emmett Skroch, Tayten Hammer, Xaver Bien, Alexavier Poitra, Nate Hobbie, Willian Lonebear, Justin Klein, Cameron Flute, Justin Cuautle, Ben Kulm, Matt Gassman, Lanz Dailey 2nd to FRONT ROW: Wyatt Kontz, Elijah Johnson, Kalel Bamba, Brayson Gould, Gabe Frias, Jacob Hamilton, Teague Bergjord, Hayden Garcia, Nichoulas Caple, Franklin Donis Castillo, Bim Asio, Pedro Barona, Alexander Nickel. FRONT ROW: Henry Garcia, Sam Wiese, Rain Avis, Jacob Mohr, Aston Duncan, Logan Kontz, Creighton Arnett, Estephan Nelson, Griffin Hemmer, Titus Tollefson, Jhorbing Argueta, Logan Arnold. Not pictured: Luke Sheppard, John Schrader, Paul Parsley.

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Colman-Egan's Daniel Lee runs during a relay race at the State Track Meet at Howard Wood Field in Sioux Falls on May 17, 2023.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Colman-Egan's Berkley Groos putts the ball during the Class B State Tournament at Edgebrook Golf Course in Brookings on May 15, 2023.

Colman-Egan Softball

Head Coach: Stormy Mette

Assistant Coaches: Kirsten Taggart and Cheryl Engle

2023 Recap: Ended the season ranked 27th according to max preps. We were able to stay mid-pack for a majority of the year with 10 wins and 13 losses. We had a great run – some of our biggest wins were versus Arlington

(who was ranked No. 1 in our conference, even though we took the loss 2-1, we had a very successful and good game), and beating Hanson in the regular season 9-8.

Top Athletes Lost: Pitcher Abby Rhode, first baseman Ava Mousel and third baseman Kadance Landis.

Top Returners: Lanie Mousel, who has multiple career home runs and

strikeouts Kaitlyn Taggart, who has one career home run, numerous assists and putouts. Savannah Schmidt, who was the top assister for putouts and had the top batting/scoring average. Karissa Williams, who was the top defensive outfielder. Also has incredible team spirit and knowledge of the sport.

Strengths: Making plays

on the defensive side; team communication; player chemistry.

Weaknesses: seeing, identifying, and batting specialty pitches (curves, changes, rise, drop, etc.); we have two very young pitchers, who we are developing. They will likely see some high intensity situations, and I'm looking forward to guiding them to their full career potential,

and seeing them reach their individual and team goals.

Coach Comments: I am really looking forward to playing more JV games to help develop some of our younger players. I feel that there is no better way for athletes to learn than to play live games, and get involved in live game action. I am overall very excited and optimistic for the coming season.

Colman-Egan Golf

Head Coach: Billy Stitz
Assistant Coach: Bodee Groos

2023 Recap: 2023 was the most successful season since I started coaching in 2018. We had four regular season individual champions and one Region Champion. We had a stretch of six straight meet victories from our Boys team, concluding with our first Region Title as a team in almost 10 years. 42 Individual medals, including two medals at the State Tournament, ninth place from Taylor Kriech and 11th place from Berkley Groos.

Top Athletes Lost:

Berkley Groos, Camden Schmidt and Sawyer Uhing.

Top Returners: Taylor Kriech (11th Grade), three-time State Golfer, finishing in ninth as a sophomore a year ago. Also won Regions in 2022 and placed 2nd behind teammate Camden Schmidt in 2023. He has six tournament victories and 17 top-five finishes in his three years as a varsity golfer. Jack Whitehouse (11th Grade) was a State golfer a year ago as a sophomore. He has medaled in four events in his two full seasons as a varsity golfer. Savanna Schmidt (Junior) medaled

twice a year ago as a sophomore; this will be her third year as a varsity golfer.

Strengths and weaknesses: We are really good at the top. We have nine years of varsity experience between 3 golfers, but from there, we will be extremely young, and inexperienced.

Coach Comments: The good spring weather has given all High School Golfers a chance to get some individual practice in before the season has started which they do not typically get with Spring Golf. So I'm excited to hit the ground running.



South Dakota Public Broadcasting

Colman-Egan's Camden Schmidt reads the green during the Class B State Golf Tournament at the Brookings Country Club on June 5, 2023.



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Colman-Egan Track



Boys

Head Coach: Chad Williamson

Assistant Coaches: Julie Preheim and Katlyn Menzie

2023 Recap: Finished in fifth in both the 4x100 and 4x200 relays at State.

Top Athletes Lost: Ben Zwart, Logan Voelker and Easton Williamson

Top Returners: Chris Lee (third in the 100 meter dash, sixth in the 200), Jack Mousel (second in the high jump), Jase Mousel (third in the triple jump), Jesse Baumberger, Jonny Keyes, Tyce Ryan,

Karson Quale, Carson Voelker, Alex Ustanko, Sutton Bunde, Jackson Zwart, Wyatt Baumberger, Mikano Lee, Zach Pederson, Caleb Larson and Clayton Bohlman.

Strengths: We have some good natural ability throughout our team but we will have to see how hard we work to improve through the season to be competitive at the State track meet.

Girls

Head Coach: Julie Preheim
Assistant Coaches: Chad Williamson and Katlyn Menzie

2023 Recap: The girls won the Class B State Track meet for the third year in a row. Daniela Lee was the Class B MVP and she was the gold medal winner for all classes in the 100 meter. The Medley Team beat the State Record with a time of 4:13.85. The girls won the DVC and Region Meet.

Top Athletes Lost: Jasie Mousel and Reese Luze

Top Returners: Daniela Lee was the Class B Track MVP-1st place at the State Meet in the 100, 200, 4x100, and the 4x200. She was also the Gold Medal Winner in all classes. Lanie

Mousel was on the winning 4x100, 4x200 and Medley team. She got seventh in the Triple Jump. Elaina Rhode was on the winning 4x200, 4x100, and Medley team, she also got 6th in the 100 hurdles. Presley Luze was on the second place 4x4 team and the 4x800 team. We are looking for her to continue helping with mid distance and a few of our sprints this year. Brynlee Landis was on our second place 4x400 team, along with the 4x800 team. We are looking for her to step in and be a huge asset in our sprints and mid distance races

this season. Finley Luze ran a 400, the 4x800 and was on the 4x400 team at state and we are looking for her to come out this season and help fill in some of the gaps this season.

Strengths: We have a good number of experienced athletes returning and they want to continue to push and succeed. We are going to continue to be strong in our sprints.

Weakness: Our weakness this year is that we don't have the depth to fill as many events as we have in the past.

Elkton-Lake Benton Softball

Head Coach: Cali Christianson

Assistant Coach: Adrianna Martinez

2023 Recap: This is the first season for the ELB softball team

Strengths and Weaknesses: We have strong athletes, but this is our first year playing and our knowledge of the game is lower than other teams.

Coach Comments: We are excited for a memorable season full of growth!

Iroquois/Lake Preston Track

Head Coaches: Chris Shaffer and Jalen Kaufman

Assistant Coaches: Brock Dufek, Scott Glodt and Kiana Hoff

2023 Recap: Adison Moore came in fifth in the 100 and 200 meter races at State. Hadlee Holt was third in the shot put and four in the discus at State. Josh McMasters came in 10th in the high jump at State.

Top Athletes Lost: Jake Larsen, Jonah Denison, Stella DeKnikker, Tobias Arbieter and Logan Peskey.

Top Returners: Adison Moore, Hadlee Holt and Josh McMasters.

Strengths: Will have 36 kids out for varsity track. That's the highest number ILP has had in a while.



Weakness: We have 14 juniors and seniors. However, we are still fairly

young. 22 of our kids are 7th-10th grad. We also have a lot of athletes doing track

for the first time.



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Kingsbury County Softball

Head Coach: Anne Kaufmann

2023 Recap: The Knights are a brand new team that will see a lot of ups and downs

throughout the 2024 season. Kaufmann hopes they can win a game or two.

Strengths: Playing as a team and backing each other

up.

Weaknesses: Not a lot of softball experience and pitching.

Coach

Comments:

Fastpitch is not huge in this area so we've been working on getting the basic fundamentals down. Since starting, the girls have made great progress

and they are really buying into what we are teaching them. We're very excited to start this program and to teach these girls the sport of softball!





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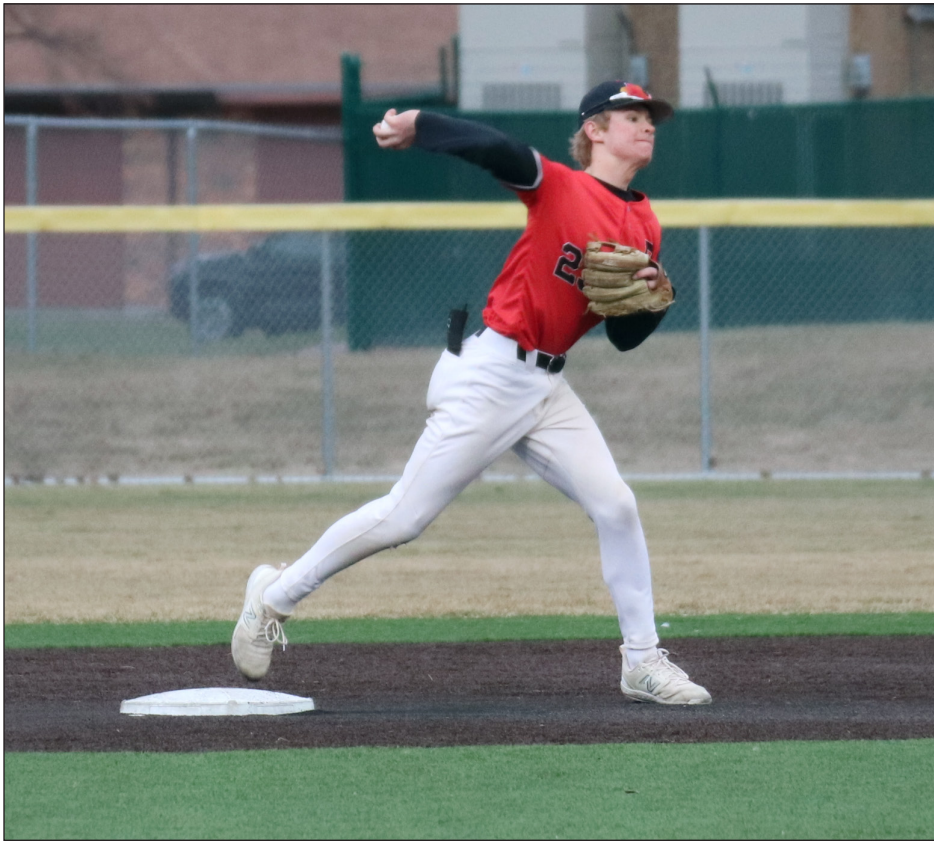
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Chris Schad/Register

Brookings' Tyson Antonen prepares to throw the ball during a game against Sioux Falls Roosevelt at Bob Shelden Field in Brookings on April 18, 2023.



South Dakota Public Broadcasting

Carson Kreie hits the ball during a match at the Hillcrest Tennis Courts in Brookings on April 13, 2023.



Chris Schad/Register

Brookings' Amari Ward runs during a meet at the Sanford Jackrabbit Athletic Complex in Brookings on March 23.



Chris Schad/Register

The Brookings softball team celebrates at the Southbrook Softball Complex after qualifying for the State Tournament on May 23, 2023.

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