

















Troy Maroney/mugsbymaroney.com

(From left): Front Row – Drew Johnson, Gavin Anderson, Bergan Tetzlaff, Ashton Baker, Donavin Davis, Blake Kannegieter, LaVonte Carter, Josiah Thomas, Charlie Bisgard, Dagi Thomas, Alex Wainman and Will Conrad; Second Row – Carter Harris, Cole Hockett, Mason Mathis, Gus Armenta, Owen White Eyes, Jay Harris, Owen Hoppe, Jaidyn Hale, Kingston Schneider, Jacksen Bastemeyer, Cooper Schneider, Jones Huntimer and Ezra Eidem; Third Row – James Fitzpatrick, Bryce Redlinger, Koen Beinhorn, Tygh Jaeger, Zach Hagemann, Andrew Hahn, Jacob Milliron, Gabriel Stern, Brady Halsey, Stephen Anawski, Phoenix Sather and Cash Sather; Fourth Row – Egan Jensen, Isaac Andal, William Jin, Dylan Reynolds, Jericho Manzey, Tate Sonnenburg, Michael Nelson, Carson Loehr, Oliver Petersen, Conner Kern, Kayden Boe and Brady Caraway; Back Row – Student Manager Sofia Bresino, Head Coach Brady Clark, Assistant Coach Connor Landberg, Assistant Coach Carter Gordon, Assistant Coach Darren Moore, Assistant Coach Kohl Ratermann, Assistant Coach Tyler Schneider, Assistant Coach Jim Van Vlymen, Assistant Coach Austin Koenig, Assistant Coach Jacolby Anderson and Athletic Trainer Savannah Ratermann. Not pictured are Assistant Coach Curtis Hughes and Student Manager Alayna Love.

Bobcats have experience, renewed confidence heading into 2024

By Chris Schad
The Register

BROOKINGS – One year ago, the Brookings Bobcats lacked experience. They began the season with 41 underclassmen including 29 sophomores and 12 juniors and the Bobcats went through a tough year, compiling a 1-8 record and scoring 37 of their 43 points in a 37-0 win over Douglas on Sept. 22.

But while the Bobcats endured a tough year, they also did a lot of learning. After regrouping over the offseason, Brookings has renewed confidence heading into this season and is looking to make gains in 2024.

"We were young last year, but a lot of guys got a lot of experience," Brookings head coach Brady Clark said. "No job is set in stone by any means on any given day, but we've already seen a big confidence level boost from this year to last year just in what we're trying to do

offensively and defensively."

The Bobcats return the majority of their roster and have seen their overall numbers increase heading into this season. Brookings has

Led by offensive lineman/ linebacker Andrew Hahn, linebacker Gabe Stern, tight end Bergen Tetzlaff and tight end/ defensive end Egan Jensen, the Bobcats have strong leadership which has not only helped galvanize the team off the field but has them playing faster and more confident on the field.

"From where we are in fall camp to where we were last year, I see a huge difference positively," Clark said. "My goal as a coach is to just continue building that in these boys because they have the ability and now it's just building that confidence. When you play confident, you play fast and that would be the biggest thing."

With the addition of a new acceleration program designed to move the Bobcat culture in the right direction, Clark believes that his team will see more success this fall even against an 11AA region

that looks just as competitive as it was one year ago.

"I'm a big believer that you have to respect all of your opponents, but if we really break it down, Pierre is going to be tough," Clark explained. "They built a really good tradition there and they have a standard. Tea [Area] has a lot of athletes and they're going to be a good test for us. Huron graduated a pretty big senior class, but they're always just tough kids.

"Those teams in our class are going to be at the top of the list coming into the season and obviously we want to be right there too, but we've got to take it one game at a time and we've got to take it by first downs instead of touchdowns."

The Bobcats will open the season on Aug. 30 when they host Sturgis.



Bobcat volleyball hopes to build off success

By Chris Schad
The Register

BROOKINGS – The Brookings volleyball team had highs and lows during the 2023 season but the challenge for this year's Bobcats will be to build off that success and host a home playoff game in 2024.

The Bobcats had a strong season going 14-18 under first-year coach Erinn Thomas and assistant Michelle Adamson. While the Bobcats lost to Sioux Falls Lincoln in the SoDak 16, there were other accomplishments such as winning the title at the Rapid City Volleyball Invitational last September and a 5-1 record at the Harrisburg East-West Tournament in October that helped them gain confidence.

The Bobcats also held a 2-0 lead before falling to Huron in five sets on Sept. 21, forced a fifth set after falling down to Watertown 2-1 on Sept. 26 and took a set from Harrisburg, who went on to win the Class AA title with a perfect 31-0 season on Nov. 2.

"I think we finished on some really great notes," Thomas said. "We had a lot of matches that went to five sets that we kind of grinded in and we were able to grow our confidence in ourselves while knowing we were really close to beating some pretty good teams."

The boost in confidence will be huge as the Bobcats head into this season. Outside hitter Sydney Bebensee, right-side hitter Maizy Mathis and defensive specialists Kylie Moe and Addison Sneer were all lost to graduation and Thomas believes their void will be felt both on and off the court.

"We've got to replace that passion and energy that they had for wanting to win but also being good people and creating a positive culture in the gym," Thomas said. "Now they have to hand that off to our upperclassmen who are coming in and replace some of those leadership areas."

While losing some leadership is a concern, the Bobcats have plenty of returning talent that can fill the void. Thomas mentioned a strong offense that includes outside hitters Macy Even, combo hitters Lydia Walker and Rylee Thompson and middle hitters Tess Burns and Arielle Ferrell as one of their strengths and their experience should be an advantage as the season begins.

"We've got some players who have had playing time but we're really strong in our middle position and outside hitters," Thomas said. "We return a lot of offense which is exciting for us."

With Kymber Buys returning at setter and Morgan Norgaard returning at libero, Thomas believes that the all-around ability of her team has improved and saw progress as the Bobcats played in tournaments and structured their summer workouts differently over the summer.

"Just having a year under my belt with the players and having two summers to work with them, we're getting into what we really want to work on," Thomas said. "It's having that consistency with



Troy Maroney/mugsbymaroney.com

(From left): Front Row – Maddy Fickbohm and Kamryn Streich; Second Row – Arielle Ferrell, Rylee Thompson, Morgan Norgaard, Kymber Buys and Macy Even; Third Row – Logan Smidt and Lydia Walker; Back Row – Student Manager Millie Wendell, Assistant Coach Abby Finch, Assistant Coach Morgan DeLange, Lily Thompson, Tess Burns, Head Coach Erinn Thomas and Assistant Coach Michele Adamson.

the players coming back that's a really big positive for us."

The cohesion will be key in a highly competitive Eastern South Dakota Conference. Harrisburg and Watertown figure to be the favorites but Thomas believes her team could fall into the middle of the pack.

With the Bobcats looking to build on some of their progress at the end of last season, a SoDak 16 game at home could be within reach and with a couple more bounces going their way, Thomas believes they could have an even better season in 2024.

"Hosting a SoDak 16 match

would be awesome and I think that's an attainable goal," Thomas said. "Our record last year was 14-18 and we had a few matches that were really close. If we can flip that record, that's something we would be really proud of and I think it's something our team is capable of accomplishing."



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Bobcats look to build on foundation in 2024

By Chris Schad
The Register

BROOKINGS – Last fall, Reece Weber was entering his first year as coach of the Brookings Boys Soccer program. The Bobcats had a tough draw in their first game, getting defending state champion Rapid City Stevens at the Fishback Soccer Complex, but Brookings would come away with a 2-1 victory and set the tone for the rest of the year.

"It was pretty exciting and just proved that we can hang with anybody in the state," Weber recalled. "Between that and [a 2-1 loss to O'Gorman on Sept. 21], it was a game where it was a good team ranked pretty high with a good record and we were able to hang with them and play a really close, intense game."

The Bobcats finished the season with a 5-7-2 record and lost in the first round of the Class AA playoffs. But the win over the Raiders helped the Bobcats gain confidence heading into the 2024 season.

Weber enters his second season as the Bobcats coach and will be assisted by his brother Jake Weber. While Brookings gained some confidence a year ago, the Bobcats will have to find some offense.

Brookings lost a lot of firepower as midfielders Junior Eberline and Rylan Eide and forwards Elie Wongondombi, Jordan Mofle, Yuji Numata, Noah Kieckhefer graduated. However, Weber feels like the Bobcats will still have some ability to score led by midfielders Forrest Giard, Brayden Schreiber.

"They both played a ton for us



Kate Heiberger Photography

Top Row (from left to right): Coach Jake Weber, Kavish Salunke, Henry Stedman, Sawyer Steen, Joseph O'Neil, Griffin Bachman, Eric Anderson, Zach Mueller, Brayden Love, Vincent Iyeli, Brayden Schreiber, Braylon Peters, Omar Gonzalez, Forrest Giard, Jasper Lee, Kasen Fixsen, Dominic Van Hofwegen, Seth Vogt, Keller Peterson, Tony Nguyen, Dylan Haar, Coach Reece Weber. Bottom Row: Andrew Hove, Santiago Herrera, Jonathan Lacher-Starace, Eli Amiotte, Isaiah Vogt, Nana Dwomoh, Jack Griggs, Jeffrey Zhu, Connor Shelden, Caylon Peters.

last year," Weber said. "Forrest was one of our main goal scorers last year and that's going to be the area that we need to make up for last season. Junior, Elie and Rylan scored a lot for us last year so that's going to be the area where we need some guys to start showing up this year and proving that we can score goals."

Weber also mentioned freshman Connor Shelden and Dominic VanHofwegen and incoming junior Vincent Iyeli as three players who could help pace the offense and that a different approach may be needed to offset what the Bobcats lost.

"I think we've got plenty of goal scorers on the team," Weber said. "It's just that maybe we won't have that main, individual premium goal scorer like we had last year with Junior."

While the offense will be a question, the Bobcats' defense should be a strength. Defenseman Adam Anderson graduated but Brookings returns goalkeeper Tony Nguyen and the rest of

their defensive core including Jasper Pitts, Braylon Peters and VanHofwegen to give the Bobcats a boost on the back end.

"I feel pretty strong about our defense," Weber said. "There's still some spots that are open and we don't really know who is going to be starting back there, but there are plenty of guys that have been showing up our first couple of days of practice that look like they're capable."

The Bobcats will need all aspects of their team to remain

competitive in Class AA next season. While they'll play some new opponents and Weber expects the class to be a challenge next season, he also believes that the foundation is set for the Bobcats to reach another level in 2024. "We want to finis in the top six in the state," Weber said. "I'd like to get a home game for the playoffs and cut the goals we allowed last year in half. But I think no matter who we are playing, we're going to be very competitive this season."



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Bobcats look to close conference gap in 2024

By Chris Schad The Register

BROOKINGS - The Brookings Bobcats girls soccer team finished with a 2-12 record last season but head coach Adam Juba saw enough from his team to believe they can close the gap and be competitive in the Eastern South Dakota conference in 2024.

"If you look at most of our ESD games, they were decided by one or two goals," Juba, who is entering his 10th season, said of last year's team. "Hopefully, we can take those games that were close, close the gap and capitalize so we can turn them into one or two-goal wins this year."

To compete, the Bobcats will have to navigate a lengthy list of departing seniors. Midfielders Abby Mohs, Desirae Johnson and Shalea Aker; forward Elise Lefers; and defensemen Madison Schelske, Emmy Kjelden and Vanessa An graduated last spring and it will be on a young group to keep the Bobcats going.

"The experience that seniors bring...they know how the varsity level works and the speed of the game and the physicality of the game," Juba explained. "We're just trying to get girls up to that speed as quickly as we can, knowing that we're going to be young and have to fill a lot of those spots."

One of the areas the Bobcats will have experience is on the back end. Junior goalkeeper Ashley Rients will return as well as junior defensemen Liv Ragsdale and Lauren Jones and sophomore defenseman Sophia Schmit but Juba also mentioned the possibility of moving some players around to create space for younger players and some flexibility on the

"We have some stability back there," Juba said. "Not all of those girls are going to be playing on the back line and we have a lot of young girls that are coming up who are very good which allows us to be a little more flexible in our formations which gives us some different looks based on our opponents."

The front end also has some familiarity with juniors Isabel Eide, Aubrey Knutzen, Shae Lefers and Live Ragsdale along with sophomores Lexi Erp and Aubrey Giard at forward.

"They're just smart players," Juba said of his forwards. "They those midfield

positions very, very well with some players that will be able to pick up where we left off last year."

Juba admitted the ESD is fluid

know how to move Front Row (from left to right): Kris Bjornestad, Tori Deming, Kaelyn Malsam, Delilah Muckthe ball. They have ley, Ramsie Hinricher, Isabella Park, Haley McBride, Avalon Monell, Josie Hegerfeld, Paxexperience in those ten White. Middle Row: Liv Ragsdale, Heidi Green, Paisley te Velde, Hannah Schreiber, midfield positions. Peyton McBride, Rylee Briggs, Berkley Stoltenberg, Sophia Schmit, Shae Lefers. Back I feel like we've Row: Mike Starace, Lynsey Magnus, Lindsey Walker, Aubrey Knutzen, Lauren Jones, been able to fill Ashley Rients, Aubrey Giard, Grace Romsa, Lexi Erp, Isabel Eide, Adam Juba.

> and the Bobcats will have to be at their best to close the gap. But with a young core returning, Juba is optimistic that Brookings can pick up a few extra wins.

"We're going to give it our best shot like we do every single year," Juba said. "Last year, we closed the gap in a lot of our games. Hopefully, we can turn them around this year."





Bobcat boys cross country looks to defend conference title

By Chris Schad
The Register

BROOKINGS – The Brookings boys' cross country team will look to defend their Eastern South Dakota Conference title this season but they'll look to a new group of runners to do it.

With the departure of Igen Nywanda, Jacob York and Nathan Smith, the Bobcats will have several runners looking to move into the starting lineup with another batch of fresh faces ready to make an impact.

"I think we're very fortunate," Brookings cross country coach Chris Gruenhagen said about this year's team. "I've always felt like as a coach, you never like to lose seniors and it's never easy to lose three. But it's always nice when you put together a team that's got two or three seniors but you're balanced across grade levels, which makes it a little bit easier

to transition and adjust."

The Bobcats have plenty of talent returning including Ernest Ting, who finished in 11th place at last year's Class AA state meet and Jon Kahler, who finished 24th. Brookings also returns Shane Harming, Marco Springman and Trevin Lounsbury which give the Bobcats plenty of experience despite their key graduations last spring.

"When you look at those five varsity returners, it's a great group coming back," Gruenhagen said. "I think it really bodes well for what the boys' outlook looks like this year."

While the Bobcats should yield a strong lineup, it's their depth that has helped them become a championship program. Jack Bierman and Miles Even finished in the top five in the JV division at the ESD meet last season

and Gruenhagen expects both runners to take another step this fall.

"I'm very confident that if they would have had another three or four weeks in the season a year ago, people probably would have noticed them a little bit more in terms of where the progress was taking them," Gruenhagen said. "Seeing them both at summer camp and on the roads, they've been getting some mileage and I think they're going to be the ones that are going to continue to help us in that depth area."

With the addition of a strong freshman class, the Bobcats look ready to compete in a crowded ESD conference in 2024. Brandon Valley, Yankton, Aberdeen Central and Watertown are a few of the contenders for this year's crown but Brookings is up for the task even if it will be a strong challenge.

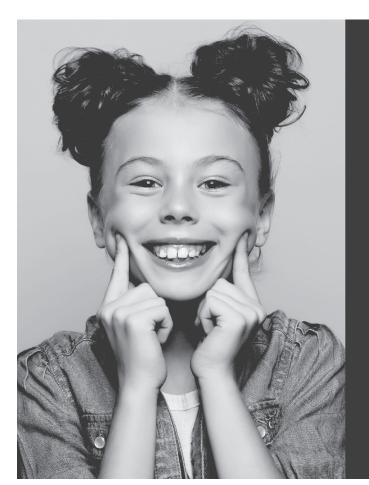
"The conference meet is



Chris Schad/Register

Front Row (left to right): Emerson Gross, Jorgen Johnson, Marco Springman, Wyatt Clayson, Ernest Ting, Bode TeKrony, Kordell Greve, Jackson Craig. Back Row: Weston Baker, Jack Bierman, Alex Diersen, Shane Harming, Trevin Lounsbury, Dylan Haar, Jonathan Scheff, Jon Kahler.

never an easy one to win," Gruenhagen said. "We were very fortunate to come away with that last year but there are plenty of teams that are going to be vying for that opportunity to win the title this fall. Hopefully, our boys are ready. I know they're fired up and excited about the opportunity to defend that conference championship."





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SCAN TO BOOK

Bobcats girls cross country continues to grow heading into 2024

By Chris Schad The Register

BROOKINGS Brookings girls cross country team is a young group heading into the 2024 season but with several runners getting varsity experience last year, the Bobcats are looking to continue their growth as they head into the fall.

The Bobcats will be coached by Chris Gruenhagen in his 17th season along with assistant coach Rachelle Engbrecht, who has over 25 years of experience. While both coaches have been around the program, Gruenhagen said he had never seen a team as young as the one they had last season.

"They were very young and one of the younger teams that I've coached on the girls' side," Gruenhagen said. "That's not unusual in girls' cross country to maybe have a freshman or a sophomore or even some

I felt like our girls had a great experience and they're a very close-knit group."

Gabby Bryant and Josie Nold are the two seniors for the Bobcats this year and while they've battled injuries Gruenhagen said they have been healthy and running over the summer.

"I think that will be some positive leadership for us on the girls' side," Gruenhagen said. "But we'll be very heavy in the freshman and sophomore

Freshman Maisie Mogard and Kalla Foerster will also be counted on after competing at last years Class AA state meet as eighth graders and Gruenhagen believes that Quinn Ulvestad can take another step after a strong track season.

Ava Flaskey and Jordyn Johnson are two more sophomores who have had a strong summer and junior captain

seventh or eighth graders...but Maya Hansen rounds out a roster that contains 15 runners this season.

> "It's honestly about five or six more runners than we've had in the last couple years," Gruenhagen said. "I think that's going to help with our depth and help encourage them to push each other. Seven get to race in the state meet and you know who is going and who is going to be ready to be there. I think that's the consistency they've learned over the summer and one of the things they've really taken off with is to commit themselves to get better throughout the summer."

> With the usual powers such as Brandon Valley and Yankton toward the top of the ESD, the Bobcats are focused on their improvement this season. After making it a priority over the summer Gruenhagen is excited to see which runners step up and continue to grow this season.



Chris Schad/Register

Front Row (left to right): Natalie Kahler, Kaylie Kuehl, Isabel Overby, Ava Flaskey, Quinn Ulvestad, Nayree Munoz. Back Row: Kalla Foerster, Gabby Bryant, Josie Nold, Sophia Schmidt, Maisie Mogard, Maya Hansen. Not Pictured: Jordyn Johnson.

"I was just telling our coaching staff that we've had a very consistent group of young girls running this summer," Gruenhagen explained. "It's probably more consistent as a whole than we've had in the last four or five years. So I'm excited to see what they've done but really excited to see where we are at. Just based on knowing the mileage that they've put in, I feel good about where they are coming in to start the season."



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Bobcats look to be more competitive in ESD

By Chris Schad The Register

BROOKINGS - The Brookings Bobcats girls tennis team will return several players this season and while they look to improve individually, they also have the goal of competing more in the Eastern South Dakota Conference in 2024.

"Our goal is to just try to be more competitive in the ESD," Brookings coach Brian Dobbs said. "We've been low in the conference for quite a few years, so it would be nice if we could get out of the basement. But for that to happen, it's going to kind of take a shift."

The Bobcats went 4-15 in duels last season and lost a pair of starters from last year's team. Elle Schulte Coplan and Nancy Yang graduated this spring but the Bobcats have three returners that will slot into the starting lineup this season.

One of the returning standouts is senior Sophie Tanner. Tanner played several tournaments over the summer and Dobbs believes she improved after spending extra time on the court.

"Just watching her play, it looks like everything got better," Dobbs said. "She got faster and stronger heading into her senior year."

Dobbs also praised junior Anika Hooda, who will also return for her junior year and slot into the starting lineup.

"She's just a natural athlete," Dobbs said of Hooda. "Now she's a year older and she's a little stronger and faster. Two years ago, she was basically a beginner and played varsity last year, so with one more



Front Row (left to right - Charlie Butzin, Katie Richter, Brielle Smetana, Alison Glover and Ella Kramer; Middle row - Ava Smith, Gayle Foster, Anika Hooda, Anon Zokou, Madeline Enderson, Awurama Dwomoh and Sophie Tanner; Back Row - Assistant Coach Brenna Langland, Lada Senchanka, Yuki Zhu, Catie Michna, Maya Gent and Head Coach Brian Dobbs.

year of experience to move up to varsity, she improved a lot last year and I'm looking for good things from her this year because her effort is really good."

While fellow senior Yuki Zhu will also return, the Bobcats will still have a pair of spots open for competition. Dobbs mentioned senior Lada Senchanka, juniors Maya Gent, Brielle Smetana and Anon Zokou

and freshmen Madeline Enderson and Alison Glover as candidates to fill the final spots but also cautioned that it can be a difficult jump with several players getting their first experience at the sport.

"When we get kids that are in late middle school or early high school and they haven't played the game that much, all we can do is introduce the game and accomplish as much as we can during the season," Dobbs said. "Then we encourage them to play and improve their game during the summer."

The Bobcats' improvement will be imperative to earn a couple wins inside the ESD conference. Yankton, Watertown, Harrisburg, Brandon Valley and Mitchell were teams that Dobbs believed could be the biggest challengers for the conference title

this year but Brookings is focused on themselves and hope that they will continue to gel as the season goes along.

"The main thing to compete in the conference is to just build camaraderie and try to make it fun," Dobbs said. "If we can't be finishing high as a team, we can set other little goals and mini-accomplishments and have a great season."



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Upperclassmen look to lead Bobcats in 2024

By Chris Schad The Register

BROOKINGS - After losing four seniors from the 2023 team, the Brookings Bobcats will turn to a group of upperclassmen to help them succeed on the golf course in

Austin Clark, Sam Johnson, Cale Jones and Dylan VandeKop graduated this spring, which leaves the Bobcats in a hole. But head coach Andy Lee, who is entering his eighth season as the head of the Brookings boys golf program believes a group of talented juniors and senior Nathan Brecher can lead the Bobcats this season..

"I think it helps quite a bit," Lee said of his team's experience. "A lot of the guys in this junior class, they've gotten to play at state and it's nice to have them as upperclassmen now. We really haven't talked to them a lot about it yet but it puts some pressure on them in a good way because we're going to need them this year."

The junior group includes Jase Bauer, Rhys Heiberger and Tyson Lunn, who all played at the State Tournament during their freshman year in Mitchell and during last vear's State Tournament in Brandon. Lee believes the experience has helped the trio work on the mental side of their game, which is imperative as they shift into a leadership role.

"Ît feels like their overall attitude is pretty solid," Lee said. "They played positively through all these years, but it felt like in the past, they would have one bad hole and they really got down on themselves and it affected the rest of the round.

"This year so far, it feels like they're not letting that affect them. It's the environment too and that could change at a tournament when we are playing people from different schools, but it just seems like overall, they seem a lot more comfortable this year and that's something we need."

Lee also believes that Brechter can break into the lineup after serving in a reserve role last season.

"He got to play in a handful of meets last year and really helped us out in some late-notice situations," Lee said. "We're looking to him and he could find his way into Ithe top six golfers] just as easy as some of the underclassmen."

It also leaves plenty of competition for the other spots as freshmen Mason Diers and Andrew Heinze look to make varsity. But it's the upperclassmen that Lee feels like will make the biggest impact if Brookings is to contend next season.

"There's a lot of promise there, but that's where we come back to that core group," Lee said. "They've got to push some of these younger guys and get them going."

The ESD will be strong again with defending state champions Watertown and Mitchell set to return as top contenders. But the Bobcats' fifth-place finish at the conference meet was their best since finishing second in 2018 and Lee believes this team can match that finish or even



Back Row (left to right): head coach Andy Lee, Tyson Lunn, Mason Diers, Issak Earley, Jase Bauer, Bennett Howell, Asst. coach Spencer Yackley. Middle Row: Asst. coach Mitch Miller, Nathan Brecher, Rylan Hesser, Jacob Walsh, Cade Zweber, Jack Lovseth, Rhys Heiberger. Front Row: Colt VanMaanen, Andrew Heinze, Ethan Foerster, Parker Witte, Tanner Overby, Liam Heiberger.

move up a spot this season...

"If we can play the way we can, we can be in that fourth or fifth half and be in the top half of the conference," Lee said. "That would

be awesome for us. ...It's just tough company but that's what we would rather be doing. We'd rather be playing against teams like that because those teams push us a bit."

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(From left to right): Front Row – Avah Osterkamp, Anya Clites, Cloe Barber, Layla Erickson and Student Manager Ainslee Bingham; Middle Row – Mija Koolmo, Ally Couser, Tyanna McClemans, Grace Vostad, Hollie Kuechenmeister and Brielle Vogt; Back Row – Assistant Coach Ally Zerfas, Luci Siemonsma, Logyn Grygiel, Bentlee Chandler, Kate Struck, Eli Hawks, Olivia Hawks, Kennedy Ronning, Brooklyn Ballis, Katie Marshall and Head Coach Hanna Siemonsma.



Troy Maroney/mugsbymaroney.com

(From left to right): Front Row – Alyssa Soltero, Nevaeh Hintz, Katie Marshall, Emly Naweji and Sophia Shore; **Back Row** – Head Coach Kayla Schlinkert, Allyson Couser, Maddey Austreim, Evian Johnson, Adia Kuchlong, Camille Wakeman and Assistant Coach Hannah Hetland.

Brookings cheer and dance looks for another strong season

By Chris Schad
The Register

BROOKINGS – The Brookings competitive cheer and dance teams are looking for another successful season in 2024. While the cheer team returns many of their athletes from last season, the dance team has a new face at head coach and is looking to take another step forward this year.

COMPETITIVE CHEER

The Bobcats finished fourth at the State Meet last season but head coach Hanna Siemonsma believed they could do more. While she was impressed with their performance and dedication to the sport, some improvement in certain areas could help the Bobcats get a higher score this season.

"I think overall, we brought the energy to the mat," Siemonsma said of last season. "I think skill-wise, we were there. But this year, we really need to step up the energy and how we draw on the crowd. I think that's our main goal along with continuing to clean it up."

While the Bobcats lost six seniors from last year's team (Amber

Brockberg, Faith Caldron, Delilah Fuls, Mya Gunvaldson, Paige Johnson, Grace Lesnar) they return a group with plenty of experience including senior captains Cloë Barber and Anya Clites.

Siemonsma also enters her second year as head coach along with assistant Allysen Zerfas and the Bobcats field 10 juniors (Brooklyn Ballis, Olivia Hawks, Eli Hawks, Katie Marshall, Kennedy Ronnings, Luci Siemonsma, Kate Struck, Bailey TeKrony and Grace Vostad) that gives Brookings an advantage compared to where they were a year ago.

"It's been great because we realistically only have three new athletes on the team this year," Siemonsma said. "So I have a whole team that's able to help them excel to that point but it also starts us off at a stronger point in the beginning too. We don't have to spend as much team re-learning basics because they already know it coming into the year."

While the Bobcats are ahead of the game, they still have some strong competition in front of them. Defending champion Harrisburg will be their biggest challenge in the Eastern South Dakota Conference but the Bobcats will also compete against Sioux Falls Jefferson and O'Gorman, who finished ahead of Brookings at last year's State Meet.

Still, Siemonsma is excited to see where the Bobcats can improve throughout the year and make the leap she believed her team could make last season.

"We always want to start the season stronger than we ended last season," Siemonsma said. "That can be difficult, but we like to compare where we sat in each competition. If we had more points execution-wise and make sure that the team feels more confident coming into each competition, we will make those improvements along the way."

DANCE

Coming off a year where they saved their best at the end of the season, Kayla Schlinkert will take over as coach and help the Bobcats take another step forward this season.

Schlinkert is a Spearfish native and performed on the Spartans dance team in high school. Schlinkert went on to enter the dance program as a student at South Dakota State and has experience in choreography and took part in performances at the university before applying and getting the job this summer.

"I got excited because I loved being on the dance team when I was in high school," Schlinkert said of the opportunity. "I thought it would be so cool to be able to coach a team and give them that experience that I got to have and loved in high school. So hopefully, I can give them a memory they'll never forget."

Schlinkert takes over a team that lost seniors Amber Brockberg and Faith Caldron and has plenty of youth with no seniors in no juniors in Maddie Austreim, Evian Johnson and Katie Marshall.

With the lack of experience, Schlinkert hasn't named captains as she gets to know her new team but has also seen her junior trio take a leadership role in the early weeks.

"They're definitely taking that role early and are stepping up to help the other girls," Schlinkert said of Austreim, Johnson and Marshall. "They're helping [assistant coach Hannah Hetland] and I

where they're just always on top of it. Everybody is working hard and we're really appreciative of that."

While the ESD and Class A fields are loaded with talent head-lined by Brandon Valley, Sioux Falls Washington and Harrisburg, Schlinkert also believes that her team will have plenty of internal competition with the goal to be at their best again at the end of the year.

"My goal is for them to feel confident when going out there," Schlinkert said. "I see a lot of potential in them. I ended up going back and watching their video from state last year and I think they can really grow as dancers. I'm determined to get them to a point where they go to a competition and they do their best and when they leave, they feel on top of the world and not feeling discouraged even if they don't win.

"I just want them to improve to the point where they're doing better than they did last year, where they're getting higher scores and they feel like they've improved and having fun. I just want to watch them all grow and have a lot of fun doing it."

Sioux Valley Football



Jess Gatzke/Jae Ann Photography

Head Coach: Dan Hughes Assistant Coaches: Jordan Fast, Jeremy Bachman, Jake Schnieder, John Hughes and Tim Larson.

2023 Recap: Went 7-1 in the regular season. Beat Mount Vernon/Plankinton in the second round of the 11B

Playoffs and then lost to Hot Springs in the quarterfinals.

Top Athletes Lost: Boden Schiller, Skylar Trygstad, Hudsyn Ruesink, Jace Christensen, Caleb Murphy, Austin Sigel, Braydon Larson, Chris Hornick and Brock Bloker.

2023 Returning Starters:

Donovan Rose, Brock Christopherson, Maverick Nelson, Preston Top, Drake Schmuck, Jake Guthmiller, Mitch Guthmiller. Jameson Degan, Braden Danzeisen, Tobin Squires, Broden Teske and Wyatt Nelson.

Strengths: This is a very in-

tense group with outstanding chemistry.

Coach Comments: have to improve each week and embrace the 1-0 mindset. We need to become experts at dealing with adversity and tough situations.



Sioux Valley Volleyball



Andrew Holtan/Register

Sioux Valley's Kaedyn Sapp hits the ball during a game against Garretson at the Cossack Center in Volga on Oct. 23, 2023.

Head Coach: Jill Vincent Assistant Coaches: Alicia VanderWal and Tatum Sonnenburg

lost in the Region Playoffs.

Top Athletes Lost: Caitlyn Cradduck and Jada Knutson

2023 Returning Starters: Kaedyn Sapp, who earned Big East All-Conference and was on the All-Register Team. Adison Renkly, who was All-BEC and Lake Central

All-Confernce. Keyra Kruse, who was BEC All-Conference Honorable Mention. Talva Vincent, who was BEC **2023 Recap:** Went 14-13 and All-Conference Honorable Mention. Sunny Hesby, Allie Hofer, Emma Gorvin and Machaela Gerasch.

Strengths: Blocking will again be a strength of this team and their team chemistry keeps getting stronger as they play together and learn to trust what their teammates



Andrew Holtan/Register

Sioux Valley's Sunny Hesby sets the ball during a game against Clark/Willow Lake at the Cossack Center in Volga on Aug. 24, 2023.

are able to do. This group has played a lot of volleyball together and they have grown individually as well as growing as a cohesive unit. It has been a very fun transition to be a part of and see them their hard work.

need to stay focused on each play and every ball to maintain consistent play.

Coach Comment's: I am so

excited for everyone to see how much we have grown as a team and as individuals with their own skill set. This team has been setting goals and this year many of them are well within their reach. have success as a result of We play in two conferences that are very balanced. Many Weakness: The team will of the teams in the Big East Conference are capable of being at the top in the state in Class A and B.



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GO COSSACKS!

Sioux Valley Cross Country



Jess Gatzke/Jae Ann Photography

Head Coach's: Bill Vin- meet.

Sutera

2023 Recap: The Cossacks in both conference and local meets. The success was

Top Athletes Lost: The Assistant Coach: Don Cossacks return almost everyone from last season.

2023 Returning Starters: had great success last year. We return one of the top girls runners in the State, Isabelle Bloker and all of highlighted by girls coming her teammates off of their in fourth place at the State fourth place finish at last great depth on both and ex-

year's State Meet including, Liberty Trygstad, Talya Vincent, Maci Light, Ava Gatzke, & Quynn Nielson. The Boys also return their entire varsity squad including State Meet qualifier Carson Wosje.

Strengths: We will have

perience on both the boys and girls side. We will want to see improvement out of newcomers in order to build momentum for State.

Coach Comments: Enthusiasm is high for Cossack cross country and we can't wait to get started!

Sioux Valley Cheer



Jess Gatzke/Jae Ann Photography

Front Row L to R: Porshia VanderWal, Hayden Mohn, Keira Sprang, Jaelyn Moe, Sydney VanBeek, Kalia King, Alaric Montanez, Mattayah Bell Second Row L to R: Ali Thompson, Addison Coon, Aubry Odde, Kendall Schwartz, Quinn Peterson, Talissa Tangen, Autumn Fryer Back Row L to R: Claire Janssen, Marissa Quale, Zoe Hemmestad, Isabella Weinkauf, Stella Adee

season)

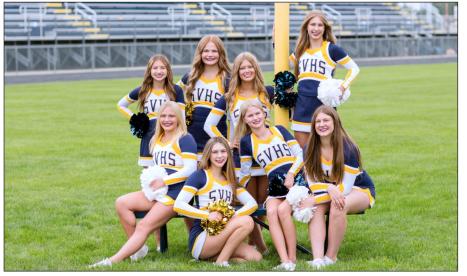
Assistant Coaches: Jordyn Lucas and Kiana King

2023 Recap: Won 17th-straight State title.

Top Athletes Lost: Abby Ching,

Head Coach: Casie King (18th Ashlyn Tangen, Ava Vande-Weerd, Maria Quale, Izzy Cotton, Isabelle King and Jocelyn Peters.

> 2023 Returning Starters: Jaelyn Moe, Sydney VanBeek, Kalia King, Keira Sprang, Hayden Moan, Alaric Montanez and Porshia Vander-



Jess Gatzke/Jae Ann Photography

Front L to R: Talissa Tangen, Kalia King, Quinn Peterson, Kendall Schwartz Back L to R: Aubry Odde, Mattayah Bell, Jaelyn Moe, Addison Coon.

Wal.

Strengths: Sioux Valley is always a strong stunting team. We strive for max scores in all areas of the scoresheet, but stunting is always where we shine.

Weakness: We only have two seniors, but they are both strong in leadership and athleticism.

Coach Comments: We graduated many strong seniors last year and have a lot of young or new athletes on this year's team so we have big shoes to fill, but we are excited to see what they can do. We are working hard to be ready for our showcase on Aug. 27 at 6pm!

Sioux Valley Boys Golf

Head Coach: Sherry Holderby (19th season)

Assistant Coach: Greg DeKnikker **2023 Recap:** Came in second in both the Big East Conference Tournament and the Region Tournament. Finished

Top Athletes Lost: Boden Schiller and Jack Opitz.

in seventh at State.

2023 Starters Returning: Maverick Nelson, Jameson Degan and Tate Steffensen, who were each All-BEC members and State participants.

Strengths: Sioux Valley is led by 3 seniors with multiple state tourney

experience, and we will be relying on strong performances by them throughout the season to be competitive as a team. We have many athletes out with several golfers battling for varsity opportunities and challenging each other.

Weaknesses: Consistent play, short game execution and the ability to minimize errors will be goals we aspire to achieve.

Coach Comments: We are looking forward to the season and having fun! The kids have been working hard to improve and are excited to play different courses



Jess Gatzke/Jae Ann Photography



Andrew Holtan/Register

Sioux Valley's Isabelle Bloker runs toward the finish line during a cross country race at Meadow Creek Golf Course in Volga on Sept. 26, 2023.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Sioux Valley's Donovan Rose runs towards the end zone after making a Mount Vernon/Plankinton defender miss in Volga on Oct. 19, 2023.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Sioux Valley's Adison Renkly hits the ball during a match against Deuel at the Cossack Center in Volga on Aug. 22, 2024.



South Dakota Public Broadcasting

The Sioux Valley competitive cheer team poses after winning their 17th-straight State championship atr the Denny Sanford PREMIER Center in Sioux Falls.



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Deubrook Area Football



Courtesy Photo

Front Row (L to R): Phoenix Poulin, Gage Landmark, Hudson Timmons, Ricardo Hernandez, Connor Andrews, Sam Leen, Lincoln Boer, Derrick Eischens, Brady Gladis, Austin Kjelden, Junior Rios, Noah Navratil, Keithten Krier. Back Row (L to R): Head Coach Nathan Lamb, Carson Engelstad, Hayden Landmark, Josh Moberg, Ray Klein, Charlie Olsen, Ty Landmark, Ramsay Carr, Blake Coners, Chance Schoenfeld, Josh Mitchell, Blake Hanson, Aiden Knutson, Carter Schulte, Dayton Wiskur, Ben Donbroski, Asst Coach Cade Falor, Asst Coach Ben Blees, Asst. Coach Noah Jewett.

Lamb (4th season)

Assistant Coaches: Cade 76-54. Falor, Noah Jewett and Treven Grimsrud

beat Estelline/Hendricks, Dylan Rios Alcester-Hudson and Phil-

Head Coach: Nathan championship game, where and Connor Andrews the Dolphins fell to Warner

Vomacka, Gavin Land-2023 Recap: Went 6-2 in mark, Jake Jorenby, JP the regular season and then Rogness, Jaxon Quail and lineman experience and

2023 Returning Starters: ers. lip to advance to the 9A Lincoln Boer, Sam Leen

Newcomers: Offensive/ Defensive Lineman Ray **Top Athletes Lost:** Jace Klein and Running Back/ Linebacker Ty Landmark

Strengths: Returning athleticism in young play-

Weaknesses: Lack of ex-

perience in skill areas. We have a tough schedule and lost nine seniors to graduation.

Coach Comments: The key to a successful 2024 season will be commitment in the summer and young guys stepping up.

Deubrook Area Cross Country

Head Coach: Pam Olsen Ava Crooks, (8th season)

Assistant Coaches: Paul 21st in Eker and Lucas Trooien

2023 Recap: Had a suc- Gage cessful 2023 season. The mark, boys ran well and finished finished second in the Dakota Val- third at the lev Conference and sev- Dakota Valenth at State. Kylie Johnson ley finished 11th at State in the ence Meet. girls race.

Top Athletes Lost: J.P. Very young Rogness, Landon John- with a lot of Quail, Charlie Olson, Tyrus Schulz, Kylee Johnson, Tenley Schulz and Isabel experience in cross coun-Knutson.

2023 Starters Returning:

who came the region meet. Landwho in Confer-

Strengths:

Coach Comments: We



son, Colton Trooien, Jaxon room to grow. Back row (left to right): Lincoln Culver, Drew Bowne, Gage Landmark, David Pickard, Rowan Prinsen, Car-Weakness: ter Hawks; front row (left to right): Ava Crooks, Presley Quail, Ava Grenz, Kenzie Hawks, Kyra Bowne. Not Not a lot of pictured: Adele Hopfinger, Kaleb Bormann, Brooklyn Poulin, Josefine Gregerson, Kory Mundt, Rylee Zylstra.

> season to get underway do. and see what we can do to-

may have a young team, gether. We're excited to see but we are excited for the what our young team can

Deubrook Volleyball

Head Coach: Rachelle DeBeer (28th season)

Assistant Coaches: Haley Lunden and Ashlev Wiesen

played a lot of defense last year as we with our record, but Madalyn some time working graduated. on ball termination

play multiple spots.

Delanev were not able to con- 1352 as a senior last match

2023

and making each of **Starters**: Zoey Mo- now. We also return perienced kids with our players more di- lengraaf (All-Confer- juniorr Carly Engel- some younger kids mensional and able to ence) has 154 in her stad as a starter and who will make an career and 99 blocks sophomore **Top Athletes Lost:** this season moving Johnson played in level. We have been Pedersen her into first place many of the matches 2023 Recap: We took over the top in that category, she last year. Senior Rhispot in school history also moved into secwith career digs with ond in blocks in a with nine. terminate year. Kyarra Blum Mataya Gouws was balls. We ended the ended her senior sea- third in school histoseason with a record son as a new school ry with eight blocks of 14-17 for us. We record holder with in a match last year. disappointed 11 blocks in a match. Junior Matte Bauman have some kids who Bauman, was an honorable we did grow a lot last Hanna Kjelden and mention for all conyear. We have spent Kadence Bowne also ference last year as well, and she is play-

ley Grenz also gained some experience last year. Our Jv started vear and ended their season 19-5.

Strengths: are very passionate about volleyball, and extra time. We have **Returning** ing really well right a nice group of ex-

Kylee impact on the varsity working on our team chemistry and our energy, and it has greatly improved. Communication does last season 11-0 last not come easy, but it is an important part of the game so we spend so much time trying to develop it. The energy has been great in practice they love to put in there is a very positive vibe in the gym



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Arlington Football



Courtesy Photo

Head Coach: Mark Jacobsen

Austin and Tanner Jacobsen

2023 Recap: Went 1-7

2023 Returning Starters: Leilan Farstad, Kayne Assistant Coaches: Clair Hansen, Dante Lee, Brecken Vossler, Marshall Holz, Caden Phelps, Sergio Maldonado and Jake Burns.

stay injury free.

Coach Comments: We have players that are do-

Strengths: Team speed ing a great job of accepting and the desire to get better. a new system and working Weakness: We need to hard every day to get better.

Arlington Volleyball

Head Coach: Sarah Kjellsen (1st season)

Assistant Coaches: Kate Wegner, Jennica Wiess and Sam Martens

2023 Recap: Finished the season 13-21 and lost in the Region 2B semifinals.

Top Athletes Lost: Harley Iohnson

2023 Returning Starters: Madi Bacon and Jaelyn Huntimer.

Strengths: The ladies have many strengths, one of which is knowing each other's strengths and weaknesses and encouraging and helping each other to be the best they can be on and off



Courtesy Photo

the court.

Coach Comments: We have been working very hard and we are excited for a thing to be proud of. We are

completely new line up this year. Being part of Arlington Cardinal Athletics is some-

extremely excited for this season and can not wait to compete and grow as a team!

Arlington Cross Country

Head Coach: Jeani Vin- Girls - Kaelyn Ulschmid, cent (7th season)

Ulschmid

nals won both the boys and girls region meet for the third year in-a-row in 2023. The girls were the State runseason and the hope is to win State this season. Arlington hopes to get the boys in the six at State as well.

Top Athletes Lost: Lost two senior girls and one senior boy.

2023 Returning Starters: doubt no matter who the

who played fourth at State Assistant Coaches: Mi- last year. Emarie Vincent, chelle Madsen and David who came in 13th place at State. Halley Miller and **2023 Recap:** The Cardi- Madalyn Madsen are also returners. Boys – Lance Kaufman came in 17th place at State last year.

Strengths: We have a ner-up for a second straight lot of strong girls this year and a couple of strong girls coming up. There's a couple of strong returning contenders from past years that are in the mix running with us again this year. They will all help push each other to be their best and I have no



then a lot of young ones will

top-five is at region, we will be joining him, but these be strong and know that the early season practices have entire team helped get us shown they are strong runthere. For the boys, we have ners as well and I believe one strong lone senior and the boys will achieve great things as well.

Oldham-Ramona-Rutland Football



Back Row (left to right): Coach Taylor Bult, Coach Logan DeRungs, Riley Trygstad, Brooks Leighton, Hyde Hanson, Jace Schiernbeck, Brody Westall, Cooper Merager, Dylan Renaas, Brock Eppe, Brayden Hanson, Brennon Bickett, Coach Josh Olson, Front Row: Rylen Olson, Dayton Olson, Grant Pitts, Lyrick MacDonald, Brodie Albertson, Easton Ruml, Boyd Pooler, Garet Wicks, Coach Kyle Broghammer, Coach Cole Siegfried

Head Coach: DeRungs (5th season)

and Taylor Bult

2023 Recap: Went 1-7

Top Athletes Lost: N/A 2023 Returning Starters: Cooper Merager, Brock Bickett.

Newcomers: Dylan Siev-

Logan and Garet Wicks.

Strengths: We have a **Assistant Coaches:** Josh strong nucleus of players Olson, Kyle Broghammer who have gained valuable experience the past two sea-sons. I really like our skill group, and I think we have some young lineman who will do a nice job fill-Eppe, Boyd Pooler, Jace ing in for three graduating Schiernbeck and Brennon seniors. Cooper Merager is a big, strong kid that we are excited about entering ers, Rylen Olson, Hyde his 3rd season as our quar-Hanson, Brooks Leighton terback. He is dual-threat strength in numbers game,

er, which will be huge for us. Brock Eppe is a hardnosed runner that can break crucial. tackles and has breakaway Bickett will be entering his third year on the OL and we are confident he will help pave the way for our skill guys

Weaknesses: Staving healthy will be our number one priority. Football is a

and has grown as a lead- and we do not have an abundance of depth. Keeping our guys upright will be

Coach Comments: To speed in the open. Brennon be successful in 2024 we have to do the fundamentals right. Football can be reduced to a simple game, blocking and tackling are crucial. We will drill our players on fundamentals of the game, while doing our best to prevent injuries in practice.

Iroquois/Lake Preston Football



Back Row (left to right): Andrew Gednalske, Peyton Hope, Ryne Greene, Ervin Carter, Daunte Glanzer, Owen Wienk, Rayson Timm, Lucas Peskey, Brycen Blue, Carter Arbeiter Front Row: Keaton Neuharth, Tade Menzel, Rowdy Scheel, Ben Curd, Rexton Blue, Aiden Query, Noah Vig.

Coach: Jalen Head Kaufman (4th season)

Wendland, Zack Nathan Enninga. drick Wipf, Nate Parker, Derek Almont

2023 Recap: Went 0-8

Lucas Peksey, Tade Men- returning.

zel, Peyton Hope, Rexton Top Athletes Lost: Josh Blue, Ben Curd, Rowdy kids on the roster. Assistant Coaches: Bro- McMasters, AJ Wienk and Scheel, Daunte Glanzer and Ryne Greene.

2023 Starters Returning: Strengths: Nine starters

Weakness: Projected 17

Flandreau Football



Courtesy Photo

Brandon Peters

2023 Recap: Went 3-5

Top Athletes Lost: Justin Cuautle, Clark Dobson, Grengs, Brendan Peterson

Head Coach: Josh Edlund Paul Parsley, Karter Head- we have a lot of experience Assistant Coaches: Joe rick, Ben Ballard, Micah Parsley, Garrett Carr and Otto, Gauge Ballard, Justin Klein, Emmett Skroch, Kody Kneebone, Xavier Bien, Tyton Peters

Team Strengths & Weak-Matthew Gassman, Kamryn **nesses:** We have a lot of skill players coming back in-Key Returning Athletes: cluding our quarterback so

both offensively and defensively. We need to be able to execute and stay healthy. We are not huge on the offensive line, we have some size in a few kids but run on the smaller side for most as far as the offensive line goes. We might not be as deep

with our offensive line this year so it will be important for us to stay healthy.

Coaches Comments: Our toughest opponents will be Elk-Point Jefferson, Sioux Valley and Deuel. Execution and staying healthy will be key for us.

Flandreau Volleyball

(3rd season)

Anderson

2023 Recap: The Fliers Lake Central Conference. Flandreau then made it to fell to Miller.

Top Athletes Lost: Claire the net. Sheppard, Lily Klein. lis, Lily Klein and Abby Schoeberl.

2023 Starters Returning: Sadie Iott, Addy Hammer and Olivia Peters.

Weakness: While we don't ing what they can do. have any freshman on the

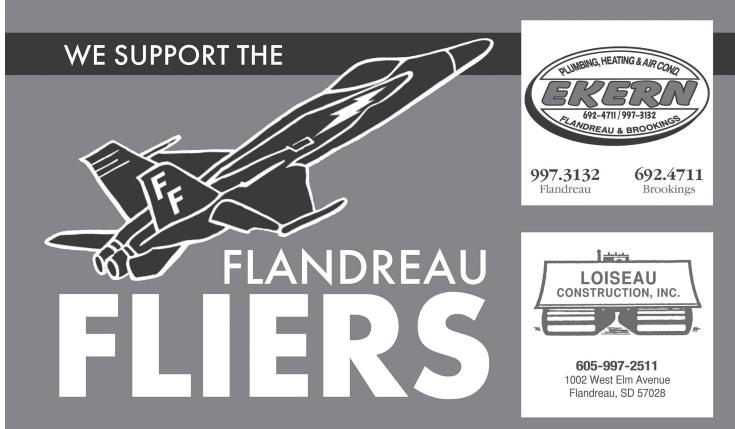
Head Coach: Julia Fargen squad, losing six seniors means a lot of new players Assistant Coach: Sarah will get a chance on the varsity court.

Strengths: This will be a went 18-10 and won the season for a new group to prove what they can do. We have some experienced dethe Class A SoDak 16 and fense players returning, and new height to work with at

Coach Comments: Both Hayden Neises, Lizzie Pav- of us coaches are excited for this season to start. After last year, we are eager to continue building the volleyball program and look forward to this group of girls show-



Top Row (L to R): Maria D'Alessandro Rojas, Sadie, lott, Aly Schepel, Ella Hoffman, Olivia Peters, Autumn Bosin, Elaina Bushkofsky, Mia Pieper, Jazalynn Kampeska. Bottom row: Hannah Krull, Nora Hamilton, Hailieanne Schepel, Morgan Kontz, Addy Hammer, Layla Latterell, Lily Arnold, Yohana Cuautle, Miesha Pedraza Felix.







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Flandreau Cross Country

Head Coach: Brendan Streitz (17 years)

Assistant Coach: Justin Klem

Girls

2023 Recap: The Fliers came in fourth in the Region knowing the top 3 teams make it to State. The Top 20 individuals make it to State, and we had the 21st and 22nd runners in the Region. Our Girls feel like they have some unfinished business and will be a lot of fun to watch.

Top Athletes Lost: Karissa Nolan

2023 Returning Starters: Junior Faith Wiese (runner up State Meet, BEC, & LCC), senior Josie Hamilton (BEC & LCC all Conference, State Qualifier), sophomore Kiley Westberry (BEC all Conference), senior Diamond Roy (BEC all conference), senioor Emma Keith (Letter Winner), senior Claire Wegner and freshman Morgan Sheppard (Varsity).

Strengths: We have fantastic leadership from our upperclassman and a lot of race experience. This team is a lot of fun to coach every single day.

Weakness: Our weakness if this counts as one is the Strength of our Region, we don't have a lot of room for error if we want to get to make it to State.

Boys

2023 Recap: The Strength of our boys team last year was our depth. Once our first runner came through it wasn't long before the sixth one did. That really helped us as the season went on and we won a couple of very competitive conference meets. The Big East was won on a tie breaker.

Top Athletes Lost: Tanner Reed (All Conference BEC





& LCC), Sam Gassman (All Conference BEC & LCC, State Qualifier), Brett Poitra (fiveyear team member)

(BEC runner up, All Conference LCC), freshman Logan Kontz (All Conference BEC & LCC), junior Wyatt Kontz (All

Conference LCC), seniors Ben Kulm, Daniel Hobbie and Abe Streitz.

Strengths: Our strength this **2023 Returning Starters:** year is going to again be our Senior Brenton Westberry depth. We have probably 11 or depth. We have probably 11 or 12 guys who are all capable of being in our top six (varsity) once the Conference and Region Meets roll around. Prac-

tices will be very fun and competitive, and each race I expect to see some shuffling as far as who the top six are. It will be a lot of fun to coach this group this vear.

Weakness: Our weakness until proven otherwise will be placing runners in the Top 5-10 in meets.

Colman-Egan Football



Courtesy Photo

Head Coach: Chad Wil- Brayden Wiese. liamson (13th season)

Gannon Gruenhagen

went 1-7 last season.

2023 Returning Starters: Assistant Coaches: Bodee Carson Voelker, Alex Ustan-Groos, Brogan Glove and ko, Thomas Loehr, Jack Mousel, Jase Mousel, Hayden **2023 Recap:** The Hawks Pearson and Sutton Bunde.

Strengths: We have some Top Athletes Lost: Jonny great experience returning so Keyes, Jackson Wright and it should be very competitive

at every position.

weakness will be depth. We are going to depend on younger players to be able to fill specific roles.

Coach Comments: We really struggled last season, but we had some players that

committed themselves to be-**Weakness:** Our biggest ing team leaders in the off season and our team followed. That should help us be more competitive.Our conference should be tough as usual and we are hoping to be able to compete on a weekly basis.

Colman-Egan Cross Country

Head Coach: Troy McKenney (12th season)

Top Athletes Lost: None

2023 Returners: Anya Hemmer and Izzie Lee. Hemmer's best time was at the C-E Invite, while winning medals at the Jesse James Invite and the DVC Meet. Lee also had her best time at the C-E Invite, and won a medal at the Jesse James Invite.

Strength: Having the opportunity to build upon last year's success

Weakness: Our weakness will be our limit in competitors.

Coach Comments: Arlington I believe will be the favorite to win the conference, while Deubrook will perhaps remain competitive. With two varsity runners, we will not be in contention for winning the conference.



Courtesy Photo







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Colman-Egan Volleyball



Courtesy Photo

Front Row: Mauryn Landis, Harper Mousel, Isabella Grann, Quinn Hemmer, Josie Pederson, Isabelle Lee, Ava Wright, Hallie Deutsch. Second Row: Kinleigh Walker, Kinley Geigle, Josie Keyes, Sadie McCorkle, Finley Luze, Hailey Voelker, Carissa Bowen, Avery Baumberger, Mallory Pesicka. Third Row: Maebe Groos, Savanna Schmidt, Kinzley Shafer, Presley Luze, Addison Geigle, Gentry Shafer, Hannah Grann, Rylynn Minor, Rilyn Groos. Back Row: Maci Voelker, Kaitlyn Taggart, Brynlee Landis, Kaylee Voelker, Elaina Rhode, Michoen Williamson, Mya Reiff, Anna Zwart, Sarah Voelker, Brenna Wiese.

Coach: Head Hemmer (7th season)

Preheim and Katlyn Menzie

2023 Recap: The Hawks finished fifth at the Class B State Tournament. Our last two tournament games we came back, after being down 2-0, to win two five set battles. We won our Conference Tournament and finished with a 30-6 overall record which is the 2nd best record we've had since I've been coaching. We had some obstacles throughout the sea-

Abigail son including injuries and tough losses, but our team **Assistant Coaches:** Julie preserved and came back to end successfully.

Top Athletes Lost: Daniela Lee and Lanie Mousel.

2023 Returning Starters: Kaylee Voelker – All Conference, Brookings All-Register Team. Anna Zwart - All Conference Honorable Mention. Elaina Rhode, Presley Luze and Brynlee Landis.

Strengths: We have 5 key players returning that have been playing at the varsity level for multiple years.

Their experience will help us tremendously because they have all already played in big matches. We have good row, with quickness in the back row. This group knows how to communicate with each other which keeps us organized.

Weaknesses: Our biggest weakness is finding a way to be a consistent team. We will have really good matches and then very bad matches. We need to find a way to communicate and perform

consistently throughout the season, so it doesn't become a rollercoaster season for us.

Coach Comments: I'm size and strength in the front very excited for this season because we have a group of girls that have completely bought into this program. They work extremely hard on and off the court, making them very coachable and fun to be around. Their determination to work hard makes them successful so I'm excited to see everything they accomplish in this upcoming season.

Elkton-Lake Benton Football

Head Coach: Ethan Pearson (4th season)

Assistant Coaches: Kaleb Haas, Dakota Johnson, Alex Marsh, Steve Erickson, Jason De Zeeuw and Avery Sage.

2023 Recap: Went 7-1 in the regular season. Beat Britton-Hecla 52-0 in the first round of the 9A playoffs before falling 28-8 to Howard coming season in the second round.

Top Athletes Lost: Carson Griffith and Quinten Poindexter.

2023 Returning Starters: Colt Beck, Tanner Stein, Tanner Drietz, Blake De Vries, Savion Stephens, Tait Boersma, Quintin Westley, Rylen Coe, Lane Schindler and Teigan Krog.

Strengths: I like our experience and the depth that we are bringing back to this to a successful 2024 season

upcoming season. It will give us the opportunity to keep ourselves fresh on both offense and defense.

Weaknesses: I think the biggest challenge for us this upwill be replacing seniors that have graduated as leaders and players. They have been a part of our system for four years, and have made a huge im-

pact on where this program has gone.

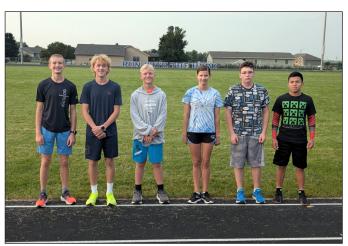
Coach Comments: Keys



will be to stay healthy and team with a lot of our playutilize the depth that we are going to have. We are also bringing a lot of experience back to this upcoming years

ers seeing experience over the last two seasons.

Elkton-Lake Benton Cross Country



Adam Kinner, Nate Timm, Andrew McMahon, Khloe Neill, Lane Yockey, Alexis Hernandez Garcia. Not Pictured: Wanner Enriquez.

season)

2023 Recap: "Last year we had a pretty solid season overall," Harming said. "I was pleased with the growth of the squad during the season and we were running our best at the end of the year."

Top Athletes Lost: Anghert Hernandez, Malayna Hemmen

2023 Starters Returning: Nate Timm – a multiple time all conference performer, State qualifier in 2022. Adam Kinner – had an outstanding season as a 7th grader last year. Wanner Enriquez – a Junior entering his second year on the

Head Coach: Mark Harming (10th team. Showed growth and promise.

Team Strengths: Our strength definitely lies with Timm and Kinner, both coming off pretty productive track seasons.

Weakness: Depth and experience. We only have 7 team members total, and 3 of them are first times in seventh grade.

Coach Comments: We should be fairly competitive on the boys side of things. Not the favorite by any means, but we have a squad that should round into a pretty competitive group by the end of the season.

Elkton-Lake Benton Volleyball

Head Coach: Mikaela Hoeke (1st season)

Assistant Coaches: Cali Christianson and Grace Weidenbach

2023 Recap: Went 21-12 overall and lost in the SoDak 16 to Platte-Geddes.

Top Athletes Lost: Tevan Erickson and Kylie Ramlo

2023 Starters Returning: Andrew Renkly, who has committed to play volleyball at Mount Marty. Charlie Tooft and Maya Jensen.

Strengths: Returning hitters and five seniors with lots of knowledge to share.

Weakness: Young athletes in big roles and a lack of varsity experience.

Coach Comments: I expect us to finish in the top three of the Dakota Valley Conference.



Troy Maroney/mugsbymaroney.com

(from left): Front row – Abbie Timm, Quinn Slegers and Ashya Flores; Middle row – Sydney DeVries, Malyha Slegers, Charlize Thooft, Trinity Hoem and Jocelyn Prosch; Back row – Keira Larson, Payton Kuehl, Andrea Renkly, Maya Jensen and Madelyn Jensen.







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Estelline/Hendricks Football



Courtesy Photo

Front row: Victor Johnson, Jonathan Williams, Sean Engst, David Hawley, Jonathan Moe, Kayleb Luckhurst, Dominic Wittrock. 2nd row: August Dagel, Kolten Hofer, Tayden Miller, Mitchell Trias, Regan Schultz, Tyler Johnson, Parker Lantgen, Drayden Cokens, Dayne Rasmussen, Carter Intveld. Back Row:Karsten Saathoff, Braxton Pravecek, Matthew McAninch, Wyat James, Ethan Axtell, Carson Reitz, Owyn Ebbers, Braxton Jongeling, Zach Griffith, Cooper Faehnrich, Ty Hekrdle. Not pictured: Cooper Schaefer.

Head Coach: Tim Cass (5th Dylon Luckhurst. season)

Assistant Coaches: Mike Rademacher

of the 9A Playoffs.

Hausman, Camden Miller, Caden Ching, Trey Cass and

2023 Returning Starters: Wyat James (Honorable Men-Reitz, Kevin Olson and Jeff tion All-State), Braxton Jongeling, Matthew McAninch, 2023 Recap: Went 4-4 in the Carson Reitz, Braxton Praregular season and then lost vecek, Ethan Axtell, Mitchto Deubrook in the first round ell Trias, Cooper Faehnrich, Saathoff, Karsten Owvn Top Athletes Lost: Mattix Ebbers, Zach Griffith, Regan Schwartz, Kolten Hofer, Tayden Miller and August

Dagel.

Strengths: Lots of returning starters with plenty of experience, our O-line and D-line will be all upperclassmen with good size, we also have depth at multiple positions this year

Weakness: Most of our skill positions graduated last year so some younger players will have to fill those positions.

Coach Comments: We're hoping to build on last year's results, we've had freshmen on our line the last two years and this year it will be all Jr and Sr with one Soph so we're hoping that makes a difference, we also have returning 2-year starters at quarterback, running back and wide receiver. We're excited to see what this season brings!





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Estelline/Hendricks Volleyball

Head Coach: Hilary Suther (4th season)

Assistant Coaches: Samatha Lebert and Bridget Bury

2023 Recap: Went 25-7 overall and lost to Elkton-Lake Benton in the second round of the Region 2A Playoffs. The Redhawks won their first regular season conference title last season.

Top Athletes Lost: Kenzy Beare and Sadie Johnson

2023 Returning Starters: Presley Bury and Brooke Johnson, who were both All-Conference.

Strengths: Return three starters from last year. We're looking to be aggressive at the net and be able to play with any team.

Coach Comments: With a tough conference, we see ourselves finishing in the top three.



Troy Maroney/mugsbymaroney.com

(from left): Front row - Hilary Ramirez, Elyse Wegner, Presly Bury, Brooke Johnson and Allie Duenwald; Back row -Kimberlyn Schaefer, Lita Fryer, Ada Hartung, Cambry Bury and Ayla Texley.

Estelline/Hendricks Cross Country

ca Dorn (1st season)

Assistant Jen Greene

Redhawk boys won the girls. the Dakota Valley girls came in sixth place at the conference meet. Cooper Schaefer was the individual DVC champion and at competitions. was a State qualifier.

Claire Dagel

2023 **Starters:** Schaefer, Kyler Marson, Rylan Skorczews-

Head Coach: Moni- ki, Cade Hexem and James Lesher for the Coach: boys. Danelyn Greene, Maggie Hausman and 2023 Recap: The Kimmy Schaefer for

Strengths & Weak-Conference and the **nesses:** Both teams are young, but they have big goals and will prepare hard at practice and perform together

Coach Comments: **Top Athletes Lost:** Our goal is to prepare Camden Hobbs and and perform. We aim to improve through-Returning out the season and fin-Cooper ish in a place that reflects our preparation.



Troy Maroney/mugsbymaroney.com

(from left): Front row - Kyler Marson, Cam Olson, Colsen Texley and Michael McCandless; Middle row - Allie Scotting, Danelyn Greene, Sophia German, Jaylee Berwald, Kimmy Schaefer and Maggie Hausmen; Back row - Coach Jen Greene, Cooper Schaefer, Rylan Skorczewski, Cade Hexem, James Lesher, Dom Wittrock and Coach Monica Dorn.





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