

# WINTER SPORTS

*Preview 2024-25*





# Bobcats hope to come of age with eyes on State Tournament

By **CHRIS SCHAD**  
The Register

**BROOKINGS** – For years, Brookings girls basketball coach Mitch McLagan has been excited about what his team could become. After a couple of years under their belt, the Bobcats have battled through the ESD but couldn't get over the hump.

But entering this year, the Bobcats' core of underclassmen has turned into juniors and seniors who are trying to turn the lessons they learned into a spot in the State Tournament this winter. "It's pretty exciting," McLagan said of the Bobcats coming into the year. "When we look at the returning minutes that we'll be putting on the court, we have a very experienced varsity basketball team."

The Bobcats will return guard Logan Smidt and forwards Kymber Buys and Tess Burns as their seniors this year but they'll be flanked by key junior forward Macy Even and guards Amari Ward and Sloan McLagan.

But while there's still a good portion of youth on the team, Mitch McLagan believes that his juniors are ready for the challenge thanks to the minutes their received as freshmen and sophomores.

"We're going to see quite a few juniors out there, but those juniors that are going to get minutes have played a lot of varsity basketball before," McLagan said. "When you look at the other teams around the state, they just don't have the experience that we do. You hope that leads to success."

The Bobcats' path to success has been built over the past year. Brookings went 7-14 a year ago and lost to Brandon Valley in the SoDak 16 but there were multiple games that McLagan felt got away from them.

Of all the lessons the Bobcats have learned, McLagan believes that the Bobcats learned how to put in the work and hopes that success will get them where they need to go.

"The joke we made was that this group never really knew how to work hard," McLagan said. "...I think in the past, we weren't very consistent with that hard work. I think with some of that maturity, we started to understand why it's important to work, show up every day and work hard."

The dedication has shown up on the defensive end, where McLagan feels his team will thrive. But the Bobcats have other areas where they would like to improve upon such as their rebounding.

"We want to have rebounding be our thing," McLagan said. "Our goal is to outrebound the opposing team every night not just on the defensive glass but on the offensive glass, too. Because when you look at it, we feel like we can steal some possessions."

McLagan also wants to cut down on turnovers but an advantage on the glass can help make up for some of their mistakes. "We've had some turnovers in the past and I think when you start getting some offensive rebounds, it will make up for some of those turnovers," McLagan said.

It's rebounding and turnovers



Chris Schad/Register

**Top Row (Left to Right):** Kymber Buys, Macy Even, Samantha Heerman, Julia Schefers, Lily Thompson, Julia Burns, Tess, Burns, Clara Delbridge. **Middle Row:** Amelia Wendell, Tessa Connot, Taylee Connot, Ryleigh Goldammer, Logan Smidt, Aspen Laleman, Lindsey Walker, Ella Miller. **Bottom Row:** Sabrina Stevens, Zoe Miller, Kaitlyn Harris, Grace Romsa, Crue Halverson, Elise Kjelden, Sloan McLagan. Not Pictured: Oakley VanMaanen.

that could be the difference in what could be a wild year in Class AA. With plenty of talent graduating including South Dakota State commits Mahli Abdouch (O'Gorman) and Jaidyn Dunn (Sioux Falls Jefferson), McLagan believes the class could be unpredictable even with Harrisburg and Brandon Valley as favorites to open the year.

"We lost a lot of talent as a state this past year, so you're going to see a lot of newcomers," McLagan said. "It's going to be interesting to

see where we're going to stack up. You've got to put Harrisburg and Brandon Valley toward the top of the list because they're going to be really good. But then I think it's just everyone else. It's not just coachspeak this year. If you don't show up, you're going to get beat because there's so many teams that are so similar."

The Bobcats hope that their newfound experience will give them a leg up and a fast start could be the key that leads to a home SoDak 16 game and a potential

berth in the State Tournament.

"We've tried to stress as a coaching staff, our goals need to be [a State Tournament appearance] first," McLagan said. "With the SoDak 16 format, the regular season games are so important and we haven't gotten off to the greatest of starts the last couple of years. I think getting off to a good start, putting yourself in a position where you're hosting a SoDak 16 game...and I think when you start doing those things, you start reaching those ultimate goals."

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# Young Bobcats seek to flip the script in 2024-25

By **CHRIS SCHAD**  
The Register

**BROOKINGS** – The Brookings Bobcats boys basketball team will have a young roster this year but head coach Mike McCarty hopes that it won't stop them from being competitive in the Eastern South Dakota Conference this season.

The Bobcats are coming off a 2-18 record where they missed the SoDak 16 in McCarty's first year as head coach in Brookings but he believes some new faces could help inject life into a team that lost plenty of close games a year ago.

"I'm optimistic," McCarty said. "It's year two, we've got some guys coming back but we are going to be pretty young and inexperienced but I think we've got some guys that are ready to step up. ...They didn't see much time last year, but they all played quite a bit on [the JV team.] They've all played together for a number of games and we're just looking to have that translate onto the varsity level."

Brookings lost a lot from last season including their guards Austin Clark, Nathan Smith, Cole Skyberg, Ian Webster, Ben Moret and Sam Johnson as well as forwards Owen Burns, Keech Bior and Cale Jones. But McCarty's optimism stems from some of the returners including guard Brodie McCarty and forward Bergan Tetzlaff.

Tetzlaff and fellow forward Drew Johnson represent one of

the Bobcats's strengths presenting an inside presence for the Bobcats. But Brodie McCarty joins fellow guards Jon Kahler, Jones Huntimer and Jase Bauer to give the Bobcats enough shooting as well.

"We'll have an inside presence with Bergan being able to score down low, but we'll have some shooters around him," Mike McCarty explained. "We're pretty guard-oriented, so I think we'll have some quickness that we can take advantage of on some nights."

McCarty is also optimistic about his team's defense that he believes can help his team stay in games.

"We need to create an identity on defense because that's where I think we will find some success," Mike McCarty said. "If we're able to just get after it on the defensive end and pressure the basketball and mix things up, I think we'll have to be a little creative with the things we do on the defensive end. We're not going to do just one thing all season."

Inventing an identity on defense will be just one of the things that Brookings will try to work on. Taking care of the ball will be one way to help out the defense and creating some takeaways could energize the Bobcats to add additional effort on both ends of the floor.

"We had a lot of turnovers last year, so just [want to be] able to execute and take care of the basketball on the offensive end



Chris Schad/Register

**Back Row (Left to Right):** Brodie McCarty, Alex Wainman, Winston Plummer, Bergan Tetzlaff, Amari Sanders, Jones Huntimer, Jase Bauer. **Middle Row:** Drew Johnson, Jarret Bauman, Andrew Hegg, Jon Kahler, Logan Schelske, Kingston Schneider, Gavin Smith. **Front Row:** Ava Smith, Lauren Rasmussen, Brady Halsey, Ellie Covrig, Tavyn Everding.

and to get good, quality shots on every possession we can," Mike McCarty said. "Then, we can play a full 35 seconds defensively, get up and defend each shot and finish the possession with a good, solid rebound."

It's a strategy that will try to help the Bobcats stand out in the ESD conference. Defending Class AA champion Mitchell returns most of its roster from a year ago while Watertown, Aberdeen Central, Brandon Valley and Harrisburg are all

teams that will have a chance at the crown.

But while the Bobcats will have a challenging schedule, they can lean on some of the success they had a year ago. Six of Brookings' losses were by six points or fewer last season and if the Bobcats can flip those margins around, it could be enough to get Brookings back to the SoDak 16.

It's a modest goal for a team that hasn't been to the SoDak 16 for quite some time but it's

one that can be reached if the Bobcats can flip the script.

"I just want to be competitive on a nightly basis and give ourselves a chance in the fourth quarter," Mike McCarty said. "We had a handful of games that we just weren't able to find a way to win, so this year, if we're able to get over that hurdle a big, start pulling out a few of those close games, hopefully, that'll build a little bit of confidence and we can go from there."

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# Ranger boys have new look while maintaining winning culture



Kate Heiberger

**Front Row (L to R):** Egan Jensen, Riley Linstad, Luke Honkomp, Jay Harris, Cooper Deatherage, Ryder Anderson and Matthew Bothe. **Second Row:** Coach Aaron Rogers, Coach Garrett Gerstner, Coach Cody Honkomp, Cody Jacobson, Andrew Hahn, Jackson Heller, Talon Hyde, Mauer Bartley, Mason Diers, Cooper Schneider, Nolan Krogman, Coach Isaac Rounds, Coach Tommy Houglund. **Back Row:** Parker Nielsen, Waylon Carroll, Cade Zweber, Maxten Jensen, Caleb Johnson, Carson Kludt, Jason Ready and Tre Christopherson.

a force again this winter.

"We have this saying in our organization that culture doesn't graduate," Gerstner said. "We have so many former players that are coaches in this organization so the kids know the expectation and they're pretty much taught that from the time they're 12 what our expectations are."

The Rangers will have a healthy mix of younger and older players as the season begins. Brookings lost plenty along the blue line including captain David Brink, Chase Karch and Ren Jacobsen but are looking to some of their veteran defensemen including Luke Honkomp, who finished second in the SDAHA with 42 assists and ninth with 48 points to carry the load.

"As a former defenseman, I think it's really tough to come in and play defense as a young guy," Gerstner said. "We've got a couple of freshmen and sophomores that we're going to try to get looks at, so that might be a little bit of a concern. But we preach defense. They've been hearing about it for the last four, five, six years whatever it is. So I think it might be a little tougher transition, but it's not something we're too worried about at this point."

The presence of Egan Jensen in goal will be a big help for the defense. Jensen will miss the opening portion of the year as he recovers from an injury suffered during football season, but he was a First Team All-State selection with an 11-0-0 record, a 0.91 goals against average, and a .932 save percentage while splitting time with departing senior Addison Ronning last season.

"He split time pretty evenly [with Ronning] last year but in the state tournament, Addison took over," Gerstner said. "Egan played the same number of games as Addison last year but he'll be our starter this year. We're looking forward to getting him back."

While the blue line settles in and Jensen recovers from injury, it may

be the Rangers' offense that needs to take over. Brookings lost Owen Schneider, who led the state with 33 goals and finished second with 63 points, and Jacob Kahle, who was fifth in goals a year ago. But the Rangers will also bring a large chunk of their offense back including forward Jay Harris (12 goals, 23 assists last season), Talon Hyde (11 goals, 19 assists) and Cooper Deatherage (five goals, 11 assists).

"I think even though we graduated some top scorers in the league, we're still really deep at forward," Gerstner said. "We're going to have four lines that we're going to be able to roll out at any point in the game and feel confident that they're going to be able to get the job done."

If their season opener against Sioux Center was any indication, the Rangers will not have any issues scoring goals or preventing them as they claimed a 15-0 win on Sunday morning. But leading the young players along will require captains Honkomp, Deatherage and Riley Linstad to have a more vocal role.

It's a process that takes place frequently in high school hockey but few do it as seamlessly as the Rangers. While another state title is a goal, the bigger picture is helping the young players along for a team that seems to reload more than it rebuilds.

"They're the future of this program," Gerstner said of his underclassmen. "Obviously, we're very thankful to win four state championships [in a row], but we've preached to them that it's not normal and it shouldn't be. You shouldn't expect to go in and win a state championship just because you play here. Like the kids we've had before us, they've earned everything they've had."

"We've just let them know that it's not going to come easy and for the older guys, they know we are just keeping the foundation and not get away from who we are. We're just making sure that culture is established and that's really big for those older guys."

BY CHRIS SCHAD  
The Register

**BROOKINGS** – The Brookings Rangers have won four straight South Dakota Amateur Hockey Association state championships but entering this year, they'll need a new cast to step up to make it five in a row.

The Rangers' roster may be different but the foundation hasn't changed. Rangers coach Garrett Gerstner believes that a message instilled in his players from the first time they put on the skates can help them become

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# Ranger boys continue to grow after last season's lessons



Kate Heiberger

**Front Row (L to R):** Rorri Quam, Graciana Peterson, Julissa Peterson, Miyah Foerster, Kinzey Grendler, Anna Rasmussen, Sawyer Triplett, Shauna Pederson, Avery Dentlinger. **Middle Row:** Brynnlea Peterson, Khloe Ziegeldorf, Ashton Otterson, Coach Gwyn Winter, Coach JaColby Anderson, Coach Austin Koenig, Coach Alex Purdy, Grace DeVries, Emily Meyer, Lorelei Koch. **Back Row:** Brooke Kruse, Maya Edmison, Ava Kahle, Abriana Peterson, Kahlei Foerster, Allie Jacobson, Jordyn Anderson.

ed in an up-and-down year that saw Brookings finish with a 13-12-1 record and a 7-7 mark in SDAHA play.

But the benefit of having such a young team is the lessons they learned along the way. After finishing last season with wins in five of their final eight games and winning the consolation championship at the State Tournament, Rangers coach JaColby Anderson is optimistic about his team and believes they can be competitive this season.

"I think the biggest thing they learned is how to rely on each other and just trust the process," Anderson said. "Everyone is going through it, understanding that it's an uphill climb and we need everybody working together to achieve those goals that we develop as a team, knowing that it's not going to be easy."

The Rangers will rely on a trio of captains to guide them into the year. Junior Kinzey Grendler will wear the "C" for the Rangers after leading Brookings with 15 points (10 goals, five assists) last season but the Rangers will have alternate captains Miyah Foerster (five goals, five assists) and Anna Rasmussen (four goals, six assists) in a group that gained valuable experience last year.

"Just knowing that we had to get through the grind of a season where we relied a lot on seniors two years ago...when you have that leadership with upperclassmen, it's easier to ride the curtails," Anderson said. "They kind of paved the way for you and not

really having that last year and just being extremely young...now they've been there. They've experienced it and you know that they're going to develop a lot more confidence. The girls know what to expect and they've done it an entire year without that senior leadership."

The experience will also help the Rangers in net. Rorii Quam returns after a 6-7 record with a 3.40 goals-against average and .881 save percentage in conference play last year and with a core that also includes Sawyer Triplett, who led Brookings with 12 goals.

"We're looking for her to work hard and give us the best shot to be competitive in every game," Anderson said of Quam. "With her presence in net, we know that we have a few girls on this roster that can also contribute as long as they all buy in, work hard and trust the process."

The process will be important as the Rangers look to compete in the SDAHA. The Rangers already learned what it takes to do that from last year and are looking forward to building on it this year.

"We just have to put in the work," Anderson said. "We have to be prepared to put in the work every day and pay attention to the finer details of the game and just buy in and understand that hockey is a long season. We've just got to take it one day at a time and when those opportunities present themselves, we have to be ready to capitalize."

By **CHRIS SCHAD**  
The Register

BROOKINGS— To say the Brookings Rangers were a young team last year would be an understatement. The Rangers didn't have a single junior or senior on their team a year ago and it result-

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# Bobcats upperclassmen look to guide newcomers in 2024-25

By CHRIS SCHAD  
The Register

BROOKINGS – The Brookings boys wrestling team will look to take another step forward this winter. But the Bobcats will rely on the leadership of their upperclassmen to lead their team to success during the 2024-25 season.

The Bobcats have seen an increase in participation in their program with 30 boys in the high school program and 45 in the middle school program. But the varsity team has a youthful feel to it with 13 freshmen and four sophomores entering the season.

“I’m excited about all of them,” Hanson said of his wrestlers this year. “Guys are waiting for their turn but they’ve been in the program for four or five years now and we’re looking for them to lead. The nice part about having those juniors and seniors is we have plenty of underclassmen looking for some leadership and over the course of the first two weeks, they’ve done a good job of that and the freshmen are starting to figure that out.”

The Bobcats leadership is filled with talent including senior Gabe Stern. After a hip injury knocked him out for the 2022-23 season, Stern made his third career State Tournament appearance, finishing in fifth place with a 30-7 record at last year’s meet.

Brookings will feature fellow state qualifier Mason Mathis along with juniors Blake Kannegieter, Dylan Reynolds, James Fitzpatrick and Zach



Chris Schad/Register

**Back Row (L to R):** Jonas Murray, Ty Delbridge, Sawyer Johnson, Gabe Armstrong, Dylan Reynolds, Jackson Neff, Caden Walsh, Colten Walsh.  
**Middle Row:** Jacob Milliron, Angel Alvarado, Cayden Westall, Rogan Haider, Haiden Baxter, Mason Mathis, James Fitzpatrick, Zach Hagemann.  
**Front Row:** Bode TeKrony, Drew Brinkman, Briggs Archer, Micah Stern, Mark Bruns, Jack Griggs, Luke Miller, Hunter Mellon. **Not Pictured:** Gabriel Stern, Blake Kannegieter, Miles Gerlach, Rhys Jestes, Hunter Eidsness, Braeden Paquette.

Haggeman but will also have some questions as they build their lineup entering this season after many wrestlers played deep into the football season after the Bobcats reached the Class 11AA semifinals.

With those wrestlers still in football shape, Hanson believes it may take some time to get their ideal wrestling weight to open the season.

“We’ve got a lot of kids that played a lot of varsity quarters

for them,” Hanson said. “They’re all about the same size right now, so we’ll have some lineup issues at the beginning of the year. But as the year shakes out, we’ll look to fill our spots once we get to January and February.”

Filling a complete lineup will be important as the Bobcats look to compete in the Eastern South Dakota Conference. Watertown remains the favorite to win the Class AA championship but Pierre and Aberdeen Central

also return strong teams, which creates a fun but interesting challenge for this year’s team.

“The ESD is tough, but I say that every year,” Hanson said. “We bust our tails to compete. ... It’s fun because we get to compete against the best every week and it shows where we’re at. By the end of the day, we hope to be at our best.”

Overall, it will be on the Bobcats to approach this season like most years. Take things day

by day and continue to learn as they look to be at their best come February.

“We’ve got a young team and with all of those freshmen and sophomores, we’ve got to get better,” Hanson said. “We’ve wrestled a lot in practice and they’re picking things up and getting better. But as a coach, you’re always wondering if they’re actually getting better and we’ve seen good signs toward that.”

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# Bobcat girls wrestling seeks to send more wrestlers to state this season

By **CHRIS SCHAD**  
The Register

**BROOKINGS** – The Brookings Bobcats had a banner year in girls wrestling last season, sending five wrestlers to the State Tournament including 145-pound champion Johanna Steinlicht and 165-pound runner-up Maizy Mathis.

But girls wrestling in South Dakota isn't about what you've done in the previous season. It's about the ability to evolve. In its third season as a sanctioned sport, the competition has continued to improve and head coach Eric Toft hopes the Bobcats can take a step of their own by sending more girls to the State Tournament this year.

"We don't have a ton of girls out this year, but the ones we have are high quality," Toft said. "We have three returning state qualifiers coming back and then a couple that were on the cusp of qualifying last year. I'm hoping they can all be qualifiers, if not placers, this year and we're feeling good about where our team is at."

Brookings will be led by Lily Toft and Bailey TeKrony, who both qualified for the State Tournament last season. Toft finished last season with a record of 14-8 while TeKrony finished 17-9 while picking up a win over Marion/Freeman's Sarah Cremer at State.

Steinlicht also returns but will begin the season rehabbing a torn ACL suffered during a tournament in the summer. While the Bobcats are hoping Steinlicht – who went 33-0 on the way to a state title last season – can return after Christmas, they'll also play it safe as she prepares to wrestle collegiately at the University of Sioux Falls next winter.

"It's going to kind of depend on how her rehab goes," Toft admitted. "That was a big loss, but hopefully we can get her back. But she's been with us every day of practice and very involved with the team while she's been rehabbing. It will be great to get her back."

Toft also has high expectations for the three wrestlers who came short of the State Tournament a year ago. Ramsey Heincher and Claire

Milliron are two wrestlers that Toft expects to qualify this year as well as Kami Erickson, who is returning to Brookings as a junior after spending her sophomore year in Wisconsin.

The group contains some high-level talent but could leave the Bobcats short on depth as they go into team competition this year.

"We have a couple of new girls that will step in and fill in, but they're going to have a high learning curve," Toft said. "Other than that, our team is pretty much what it's going to look like, heavy at the bottom but open at the top."

It will be on the Bobcats to find a way to make the most of their talent as they head into State competition. With the level increasing, girls across the state have put in the work to become better wrestlers and it's added another dynamic to the action on the mat.

"The level of wrestling just keeps improving," Toft said. "We're only a few years into girls wrestling, but there's already an elite level of girls at the top and everyone is learning they need to do stuff in the offseason

if you really want to be at that elite level. You can't just walk onto the mat and expect to win like it was in the first year, where nobody really knew what they were doing and aggressive girls could just win on aggression. Technique is getting much better and there are girls that have been in this for three or four years now and they're getting so good."

The level of competition has the Bobcats wanting more and hopeful they can all five of their wrestlers to state this February. But Toft's focus is to make sure they enjoy the journey to get there and continue to improve as the season rolls along.

"The main thing is, I just want



Chris Schad/Register

**Back Row:** Kendis Sackreiter, Bailey TeKrony, Ramsie Hinricher, Brooklyn Bothun. **Front Row:** Lily Toft, Claire Milliron, Kami Erickson.

our girls to wrestle for fun," Toft said. "I want them to enjoy the fight and enjoy wrestling. Not worry so much about winning or losing. I think the winning will come if that happens, but if we just have a good positive attitude to get through the grind, we can really flow and enjoy what we are doing."

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Kate Heiberger

Front Row: Grant Tellekson, Bryden Anderson, Zack Bevers, Riley Owens, Holden Austreim, Donovan Gloege, James Tefft and Noah VanDiepen. Back Row: Coach Kasee Hieb, Gage Craft, Carson Palmer, Tanner Overby, Coach Dylan Cramer, Tatum Lowe, Tyler Wastell, Liam Johnson, Zaiden Dicke, Coach Rick Hieb. Not pictured: Kale Nelson and Adrian Howard.



Kate Heiberger

Front Row: Ava Bortnem, Gabby Bevers, Kacee Rhody, Ava Smith and Annika Hulberg. Back Row: Coach Kasee Hieb, Haley McBride, Peyton McBride, Alexis Hieb, Shelby Hallan, Brooklyn Hughbanks, Kenzie Owens and Coach Rick Hieb.

## Bobcats aim for another state title, improvement in 2024-25

By **CHRIS SCHAD**  
The Register

BROOKINGS – The Brookings

Bobcats bowling team is looking to build on its success from last season as the boys and girls teams hit the lanes this winter.

While both teams have their strengths, it's created a juxtaposition that has kept the bowling program growing and thriving over the past couple of seasons.

"It's the largest boys squad we've ever had this year and the girls team, they just have fun," Brookings coach Rick Hieb said. "It's pretty neat. The boys are great and it's fun."

The girls team is coming off their second state title in the past three years after completing an undefeated season at 13-0. While the Bobcats return Alexis Hieb, Peyton McBride and Kacee Rhody, they've also looked to have fun while going on a three-year undefeated streak during the regular season.

Part of the secret for the girls

has been mixing in ways to compliment the grind such as creating and posting videos on social media. While Hieb works with the boys team and his wife and fellow coach Kasee works with the girls, Hieb says the demeanor of the girls team has set the tone for the program.

"I don't get over to them as much but they're just goofy," Hieb chuckled. "They have fun and they're just pretty neat."

The boys team is also growing and looking to build on a 5-7 record from a year ago. Holden Austreim, James Taft, Jaiden Monell and Adrian Howard are two of the key returners from last year's team but they've also developed a personality surrounded by their competitiveness which helped them knock off top-seeded Yankton and finish fifth during last year's State Tournament.

"It's hard to get them out of their shell but the State Tournament will do that to them," Hieb said. "You want to see the night and day difference between those boys. It was the second year where we had a little disappointing season – and I say that loosely – because we didn't finish where I felt we could have finished but when they get to the tournament... I was super pleased with how the year went to take fifth place."

Overall, both sides are working hard to perfect their craft and Hieb

has seen their averages drop from 20 to 30 pins from where they were a year ago.

"Last year, they were about a 160 to 170 average [score] and this year, they're pushing 195 to 200 averages," Hieb explained. "They're doing the clinics over the summer and just getting out there and I think overall too, they've always been so young. The core group of juniors this year are just becoming so mature... they're just getting older now and their bowling IQ is better than it used to be."

Hieb also notes the team's overall camaraderie has helped breed more success on both sides.

"I'm starting to see it during practice where they're ribbing each other and giving each other a hard time," Hieb said. "But I'm trying to get them to hold each other accountable for things. We can't just go over there and shake our heads, we've got to talk and show them how to help each other out a bit."

The Bobcats are also cultivating their bowlers outside of the athlete with the goal of a 3.5 grade point average as a team to earn the academic athlete award. With a strong start to the season, Brookings is hoping to reach their goals and add another successful year – and potentially another state title – to the mantle.



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Jane Ann Photography

**Back Row (Left to Right):** Coach Sam Johnson, Coach Damon Venner, Coach Wendy Ahrendsen, Coach Cassie Hendricks, Coach Allison Meland. **Fourth row (Left to Right):** Evelyn Hanson-McComb, Tilly te Velde, Landry Tidstrom, Olive Nelson, Theodore Kessler, Otto Nelson, Evan Morehouse, AJ Marker, Avery Bisson, Carlina Wang, Edith Meland, Ellanora King, Fallon Kelly, Harper Drawdy, Brooklyn Rausch, Josephine Abbas, Don Lin, Ryker VerHelst, Michael Julius, Hudson Rausch. **Third Row (Left to Right):** Carter Lucas, Conner Long, Wyatt deBlonk, Emmett Morehouse, Jackson Bisson, Emerson Weber, Ella Morehouse, Corbyn Tidstrom, Margaret Abbas, Audrey Kleinsasser, Makena Johnson, Cora Kurtenbach, Shayla Vilhauer, Wesley Hanson-McComb, Ethan Kleinsasser, Ramona Strong, Dante DeRycke. **Second Row (Left to Right):** Arite Velde, Maddie McClemons, Mackenzie Leraas, Henry Stewart, Jensen Weber, Jane Meland, Hailey Sandager, Addelyn Rausch, Carmen Kurtenbach, Adam Oorlog, Eisalee Kelly, David Peterson, Winter Anderson, Reed Chambers, Della Bakken, Amelia Meland. **Front Row (Left to Right):** Kjersten Johnson, Andrea Thompson, Ethan Kuhn, Payden Nelson, BriggsBauer, BennettBauer, Liam Jones, Jorgen Johnson, Kendallyn Schmit, Marlee Skinner, Sofia Gonzalez, Kalla Foerster, Scarlett Januszewski, Avery Jorgensen, McKinley Schwab, Kendra Pikul, Ernest Ting, Trevin Lounsbury.

## New coach looks to cultivate young Brookings swimmers

By **CHRIS SCHAD**  
The Register

BROOKINGS – The Brookings Swimming Club will have a new face in charge as Allison Meland looks to lead the club to success during the

2024-25 season.

Meland has been with the BSC since 2017 and has extensive coaching experience including a stint with Lincoln Flex Swimming and coaching a summer league team in Montana before coming to

Brookings. But while Meland has coached for a long time, she's taken on more of a leadership role entering this season and is excited about the opportunity.

"I'm very excited. I love this swim club and I love that I'm getting to do more to help the team," Meland said. "I just really want to help grow the team and do what's best for the swimmers." To start the year, Meland will be working with a talented young group that includes Ava Humphrey, Sofia Gonzalez and Ernest Ting in the 15 & Over division but also has stand-

outs such as Wyatt deBlonk, Jensen Weber and Kjersten Johnson at the younger levels.

Meland also estimates that her team's strength could be in the breaststroke events, where Jane Meland (8U), Quinn Humphey (age 9-10), Kalla Foerster (13-14), and Hailey Sandager (8U) have stood out with Johnson and Gonzalez on the girls' side. Weber (11-12), Wesley Hanson-McComb (9-10), and Emmett Morehouse (11-12) have had strong performances on the boys' side in the first meets of the season.

But Meland is optimistic about the club's future because of the wave of younger kids who have come in. "We've gained a lot of six and seven-year-old girls, which is great for the development of the club," Meland said. "We went from having no [8U] members to having 10 six or seven-

year-olds. So that makes me look forward to the future of that growth with these really young swimmers."

Overall, Meland is focusing on development and getting more swimmers to the state meet at the end of the year. While she admits swimming is an individual sport, she also believes there is a team element that can help the BSC accomplish its goals at the end of the year.

"I would like to see improvement in technique, but I really want to see the team come together," Meland said. "Swimming is an individual sport, but the team aspect of it is so important. To unify as a team, I would love to see that and have more of our relay groups get to state. I would love to have at least one if not two in each age group get to state and I'm looking forward to getting them there along the way."



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Kate Heiberger

Brookings' Logan Smidt dribbles past a defender during a game against Harrisburg at Bob Jostad Gynasium in Brookings on Jan. 23.



Chris Schad/Register

Brookings' Jacob Kahle takes a shot during a game against Sioux Center at Larson Ice Center in Brookings on Dec. 12, 2023.



Chris Schad/Register

Brookings' Miyah Foerster takes a shot during a game against Sioux Falls West at Larson Ice Center in Brookings on Feb. 2.



Mary Lynn Headrick

Brookings' Gabe Stern pins his opponent during a match at the Region Tournament on Feb. 17. Stern was a State Qualifier last season.



# New group hits the mat for Bobcat gymnastics

By **CHRIS SCHAD**  
The Register

**BROOKINGS** – The Brookings Bobcats gymnastics team will have plenty of new faces as they look to improve and compete in the ESD during the 2024-25 season.

Gymnastics coach Rachele Engbrecht estimates her team has about a 50 percent turnover from a year ago but will rely on senior leadership and some of the younger gymnasts stepping up to bridge the gap from last season.

“We’ve got some good, returning athletes but we also have a talented group of new ones,” Engbrecht said. “We definitely have a lot of good girls returning and they’re all winners.”

The Bobcats will look to replace outgoing seniors Delilah Fuls, who placed fifth in the vault, eighth in floor exercise and Amber Brockberg, who competed in floor exercise, balance beam and vault

at the state meet last spring. But Brookings also returns senior Lexi Norgaard, who finished 12th in the uneven bars at the state meet.

“She’ll definitely do a great job being a role model and helping the younger gymnasts,” Engbrecht said. “She’ll also help us score-wise.”

The Bobcats also have several returning letter winners including juniors Nevaeh Strofus, Layla Erickson, Kennedy Ronnings, Brooklyn Ballis and Ava Petterson to help fill some of the holes that were left by the departing seniors.

Engbrecht believes her team will have some comfort with the floor exercise and that it will be one of their stronger events but also has some things to work on including their performance on the balance beam.

“It’s very hard because you’ve gotta stay on the thing,” Engbrecht said. “Just getting their hands back in shape so they’re



not gripping all the time makes a huge difference on whether they can do their skills and get those strong scores.”

While many questions are

coming into this year, Engbrecht feels like that’s the norm in the ESD where Mitchell, Watertown and Harrisburg have all been the top three in recent years. But

while there is room to grow the Bobcats could improve as the season rolls along and a young group could come of age this season.



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Andrew Holtan/Register

Sioux Valley's Maverick Nelson goes up for a lay up during a game against Flandreau at the Cossack Center in Volga on March 1.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Sioux Valley's Kailey Cradduck shoots a 3-pointer during a game against Clark/Willow Lake at the Cossack Center in Volga on Dec. 19, 2023.

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# Sioux Valley Wrestling



Jess Gatzke/Jae Ann Photography

Back Row (Left to Right): Owen VandeWeerd, Dubhlainn Vermeulen, Vanden Virchow, Tyson Norgaard, Tate Steffensen, Wyatt Hardt, Luke Derynck, Luke Johnson, Matthew Field  
Front Row: Morgan Christiansen, Kyson Sundberg, Triston Kurtenbach, Gile Rud, Kieser Thiex, Finley Benson, Declan Severson, Regan Ness, Harvey Hardt, Wyatt Nelson.



Jess Gatzke/Jae Ann Photography

Back Row (Left to Right): Harper Duran, Hope VanHoepen, Citabria Manzanares, Summer Guthmiller, Anna Field. Front Row: Skye Guthmiller, Mira Wagner, Trinity Kurtenbach, Kassidy Smith. Not pictured: Skyler Virchow.



# Sioux Valley Boys Basketball

**Head Coach:** Bill Vincent (28th season)

**Assistant Coaches:** Dave Carmon, Buster Vincent, Collin VanderWal, Noah Clair and Ryan Burggraff

**2023-24 Recap:** Sioux Valley went 23-3 last season and made the State Tournament. The Cossacks beat Pine Ridge in the consolation championship.

**Top Athletes Lost:** Alec Squires, Maxwell Engebretson, Hudson Ruesink, Jace Christensen and Boden Schiller

**Top Returning Players:** Maverick Nelson, Brock Christopherson, Tobin Squires, Braden Danzeisen and Bret Milton.

**Strengths:** We have many players that have been contributing at the Varsity level since a young age. We will be able to put an athletic team on the floor. Solid Defense & Rebounding. We have a tight-knit group that is accustomed to competing in big games.

**Weakness:** We will need to develop our depth and complete our roster.

**Coach Comments:** We will be able to compete night in and night out. We will play in two very competitive conferences and play a tough non-conference schedule. The combination of this should make us Tourney Tough. We will strive to be in position to compete with the best in the state by season's end.



Jess Gatzke/Jae Ann Photography


Front Row (Left to Right: Carson Wosje, Brock Teske, McCade Nelson, Levi Loban, Maverick Nelson, Brock Christopherson, Tobin Squires, Bret Milton, Braden Danzeisen. Middle Row: Carter Sapp, Tyrus Schulz, Trentyn Schmit, Holdyn Ruesink, Logan Mohn, Patrick Quale, Johnny Vermeulen, Brady Hiltunen. Back Row: Jordan Ries, Koltyn Kissner, Westin Pitts, Brendin Moe, Cody Strenge, Cooper Teske, Riley Kuiper.

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## Sioux Valley Girls Basketball



Jess Gatzke/Jae Ann Photography

Front Row (Left to Right): Sienna Wiess, Taylor Bastian, Masey Top, Miley Keating, Amryn Heninger, Heather Hosmer, Cheyenne VanderWal. Back Row: Avery Hansen, Zoe Ford, Audrey Larsen, Talya Vincent, Liberty Trygstad, Keyra Kruse, Brooke Knutsen, Skylar Knutsen, Kailey Kradduck, Amari Ward.

**Head Coach:** Jamie Granum (8th year)

**Assistant Coaches:** Brooke Mathern and Taylor Ash

**2023-24 Recap:** The Cossacks had a 16-6 record and lost in the Region 2A Semifinals to Flandreau.

**Top Athletes Lost:** Isabelle Bloker, Jada Knutson, Savannah Rawden and Caitlyn Cradduck.

**Top Returning Players:** Sophomore Kailey Cradduck, who averaged 14.2 points

and seven rebounds. She is committed to South Dakota. Junior guard Talya Vincent, who averaged 10.9 points and made 60 three's. Senior forward Keyra Kruse who averaged nine points and 8.1 rebounds per game. Liberty Trgystad, who was the leading scorer on the junior varsity team last year, and Amari Ward, who transferred from Brookings.

**Coach Comments:** We head into the 2024-2025 season

with three returning starters! We return a strong nucleus of skilled players who all fully understand our style of play. Our point guard Talya Vincent is really sound with the ball in her hands, she's not only an exceptional shooter, and her decision making is elite. Keyra Kruse, another returning starter was really close to averaging a double double on the season, her impact is noticed on both ends of the floor. Kailey Cradduck is a

long and athletic guard who had a great summer, committing to USD Womens program a short time ago. Kailey can score in multiple ways and works extremely hard. Liberty Trygstad keeps improving offensively; she has developed her shot with lots of work, one of if not our hardest worker on the court! Amari Ward is a transfer from Brookings; she brings a lot of experience and is an elite athlete. We have a lot of girls that need to be

guarded on the perimeter. All 5 of our projected starters played AAU basketball this past summer. We move the ball really well offensively and play a fun style to watch. With our improved athleticism we hope we are a better defensive team than a year ago. Our region fell off a little with Flandreau moving regions, but Hamlin received 3 transfers that make them the team to beat again in our region.





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# Deubrook Area Girls Basketball



Jess Gatzke/Jae Ann Photography

**Head Coach:** Brad DeBeer (15th season)

**Assistant Coaches:** Noah Jewett, Scott Mithcell and Kadence Bowne

**2023-24 Recap:** 9-13 overall Had a couple of injuries, but

were able to get some younger players ready for this year.

**Top Athletes Lost:** Kadence Bowne, Kyaara Blum, Delaney Pederson and Hanna Kjelden.

**Top Returning Players:**

Mataya Gouws, an All-DVC Honorable Mention. Kylee Johnson, Matte Bauman and Brynlee Hanson.

**Strengths:** Numbers. We have 24 kids in grades 9-12, which will allow us to have

very competitive practices and that will hopefully translate into success in games. We have decent size and speed.

**Weakness:** We must be more consistent on offense.

**Coach Comments:** These

kids had a great summer and I feel like we really matured as a team. Our expectations are high for this team and our goal is to play deep into the postseason.



## Arlington Girls Basketball

**Head Coach:** Tara King (10th season)

**Assistant Coaches:** Clarissa Leiseth, Bryce Frank and Cooper Heiser

**2023-24 Recap:** Went 23-3 overall and 9-0 in the Dakota Valley Conference. The Cardinals made it to the State Tournament and lost in the championship game.

**Top Athletes Lost:** Harley Johnson

**Top Returning Athletes:** Jaelyn Huntimer, who was first team All-DVC, third team All-State and All-Register.

**Strengths:** Team chemistry and perimeter play.

**Weaknesses:** Height and varsity experience.



## Arlington Boys Basketball

**Head Coach:** Aaron King (4th season)

**Assistant Coach:** Matt Josephsen

**2023-24 Recap:** Won the region play-in game before falling in the postseason.

**Top Athletes Lost:** Four starters and one bench player

**Top Returners:** Paxton Rheaulfk, who was All-Conference Honorable Mention, and Miles Antonen.

**Strengths:** Return six players that had significant minutes last year.

**Weaknesses:** Depth and are very young.

## Kingsbury County Wrestling

**Head Coach:** Steve Gilbertson (16th season)

**Assistant Coaches:** Mike Johnson, Dan Zilverberg and Bryan Pietig

**Returning State Qualifiers:** Breyten Johnson, Kaleb Johnson, Greyson Nielson and Cody Zell. All of those kids are on the brink of getting on the podium at the state tournament.

**Coach Comments:** Chase Henriksen at 106 finally big enough to be a contender. Lane Albrecht w has been and will be a key as he looks to

slide into the starting lineup. Rogan Albrecht and Blake Jennings both missed most of last season with injuries and will definitely contend for a medal at the state wide level. Marshall Holz narrowly missed qualifying for the state tournament and also will be a factor as he has improved. Karsten Lerwick, Lane Jensen, Donovan Sandven, Owen Anderson, Jaun Gutierezz, Sutton Murphy and Kahne Hansen all will contend for varsity mat time.





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Chris Schad/Register

Arlington's Jaelyn Huntimer drives past a Gayville-Volin defender during a SoDak 16 game on Feb. 29 at Madison High School.



# Flandreau Girls Basketball



Courtesy Photo

**Back Row (Left to Right):** Hannah Krull, Sadie Iott, Madison Bushkofsky, Hailey Lahr, Morgan Sheppard, Patricia Roy, Rona Streitz, Jaz Kampeska. **Front Row:** Addy Hammer, Nora Hamilton, Aly Schepel, Josie Hamilton, Kiley Westberry.

**Head Coach:** Megan Severtson (11th season)

**Assistant Coaches:** Brian Relf and Jessi Giles

**2023-24 Recap:** Made the State Tournament

and was the consolation champion. Had an overall 25-1 and was undefeated in conference play.

**Top Athletes Lost:** Claire Sheppard, Lily

Klein and Lizzie Pavlis.

**Top Returning Players:** Sadie Iott (BEC Honorable Mention), Morgan Sheppard and Hannah Krull.

**Strengths:** Depth

**Weakness:** Experience  
**Coach Comments:** Our team will certainly look a lot different and will need to adapt to a

different style of play this season. We will still rely heavily on our strong defense to keep us in games.



# Flandreau Wrestling

**Head Coach:** Cody Chamblin

**2023-24 Recap:** Last year we ended the season wrestling really well with the six we took to regions all placing and taking five to the state tournament.

**Top Athletes Lost:** Brayden Wiese was an asset for years and a big leader that will be missed. Julie Pitsenberger was Flandreau's first girl and three-time state qualifier who will be missed and would have been nice to have this year mentoring two young girls starting the program.

**Top Returning**

**Athletes:** Karter Headrick, Justin Klein, Teague Bergjord, Zach Pederson and Gabe Frias are returning letter winners. Three state qualifiers back on the team, Headrick, Bergjord and Pederson. Klein, Frias and Bergjord have received national exposure during the off season.

**Strengths:** A lot to look forward to with the returners all looking to have a big year and accomplishing some goals. Also, something we haven't been able to do in years is fill a team and compete in duals so I see us winning a lot of



Courtesy Photo

duals along with placing in some tournaments with our power lineup.

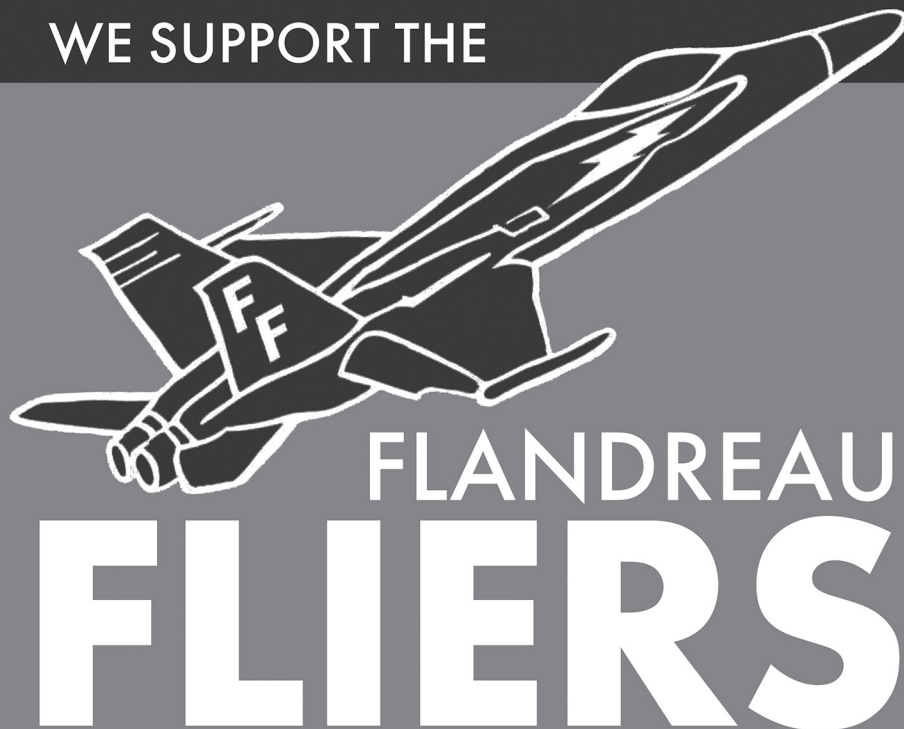
**Weakness:** We have some newcomers; but

they're young so will be learning and taking lumps along the way.

**Coach Comments:** We have a great group

of kids building this program only losing a boy and girl from last year. There's a bright future.

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# Flandreau Boys Basketball



Courtesy Photo

**Front Row (Left to Right):** Trevor Peters, Jake Hamilton, Sam Schmidt, Braysen Gould, Pedro Barona, Estephan Nelson, Ryder Jandreau and Mason Brushbreaker. **Middle Row:** Tate Hammer, Nate Hobbie, Cam Flute, Jadon Eng, Alex Poitra, Xavier Bien, Griffin Hemmer, Kenton James and Jon Schrader. **Back Row:** Paul Parsley, Kody Kneebone, Luke Sheppard, Micah Otto, JP Powers, Kaden Burshiem, Nathan Ross and Candon Metcalf.

**Head Coach:** Brennan Sheppard (10th year)

**Assistant Coaches:** Justin Kelm and Brendan Streitz

**2023-24 Recap:** Finished 14-8 and lost to Sioux Valley in the

Region 2A Semifinals. Were second in the Big East Conference.

**Top Athletes Lost:** None

**Top Returning Athletes:** Luke Sheppard, who averaged

14 points, six rebounds and five assists and was an All-Conference and All-Register. Paul Parsley, who averaged 12 points, seven rebounds and six assists and was All-Conference

and All-Register. Alfie Henderson, Xavier Bien, Micah Ott and Kaden Bursheim.

**Strengths:** Experience, depth, shooting and basketball IQ.

**Weaknesses:** Size and

athletic ability.

**Coach Comments:** Should be a good year for the Fliers. We plan on competing for a State Tournament berth.





Andrew Holtan/Register

Flandreau's Luke Sheppard goes up for a lay up during a game against Sioux Valley at the Cossack Center in Volga on March 1.



Chris Schad/Register

Flandreau's Sadie Iott blocks Sioux Valley's Kailey Craddock during a game at Flandreau High School in Flandreau on Feb. 2.



## Colman-Egan Boys Basketball



**Front Row (Left to Right):** Kayden McLaughlin, John Snoozy, Holdyn Rentschler, Levi Williams and Tyran Sippel. **Middle:** Kale McLaughlin, Caden Zwart, Clayton Bohlman, Camdyn Hoyer, Mason Wright and Westyn Pearson. **Back Row:** Taylor Kriech, Jase Mousel, Julian Allen, Jackson Zwart, Jack Mousel, Carson Voelker and Logan Claflin.

**Head Coach:** Nick Theroux (4th year)

**Assistant Coaches:** Ashley Milbrandt and Jerry Carr

**2023-24 Recap:** Went 9-12 overall and lost a couple of those games by double digits.

**Top Athletes Lost:** Jackson Wright and Tyce Ryan

**Top Returning Players:** Jase Mousel, who averaged 22.3 points, 7.5 rebounds and two assists per game last season. Jackson Zwart, who averaged 14.3 points, 6.3 rebounds and 3.2 assists. Jack Mousel, who averaged 10.8 points, six rebounds and 1.9 assists. Taylor Kriech.

**Strengths:** One of our

biggest strengths is our transition offense. We can really get out and run with the best of them, and we plan to make it tough on teams to keep up with us. Another strength of ours is our ability to stretch the floor. We have multiple guys that can knock shots down which will open up our driving lanes.

**Weaknesses:** One of our biggest strengths is our transition offense. We can really get out and run with the best of them, and we plan to make it tough on teams to keep up with us. Another strength of ours is our ability to stretch the floor. We have multiple guys that can knock shots down which will open up

our driving lanes.

**Coach Comments:** Expect big things from the hawks this season. This is a hungry and determined bunch ready for any test that comes our way. We may not be on a lot of radars but we intend to make some noise throughout the season.



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# Colman-Egan Girls Basketball



**Front Row (Left to Right):** Kayden McLaughlin, John Snoozy, Holdyn Rentschler, Levi Williams and Tyran Sippel. **Middle,** Kale McLaughlin, Caden Zwart, Clayton Bohlman, Camdyn Hoyer, Mason Wright and Westyn Pearson. **Back Row:** Taylor Kriech, Jase Mousel, Julian Allen, Jackson Zwart, Jack Mousel, Carson Voelker and Logan Clafin.

**Head Coach:** Tyler Husby (8th season)

**Assistant Coaches:** Bodee Groos and Josh Flatten

**2023-24 Recap:** Went 15-8 overall and were a SoDak 16 qualifier. Finished second in the Dakota Valley Conference with a 7-2 record.

**Top Athletes Lost:** Lanie Mousel

**Top Returning Players:**

Brynlee Landis, who was first team All-Dakota Valley Conference. Kaylee Voelker, who was third team All-DVC. Presley Luze, who was a DVC Honorable Mention. Elaina Rhode and Anna Zwart.

**Strengths:** Veteran group that's experienced, athletic and loves to compete.

**Weakness:** Being a

consistent team throughout the season.

**Coach Comments:** We have a veteran group back this season with kids that have a lot of varsity experience. We are looking to build off what we were able to accomplish this past season with reaching the SoDak 16. Our group put a lot of time in during the off season this past summer and are

eager to build off what we did last year. We have a very positive outlook on the upcoming season, with the nucleus of our team returning and a few young kids that are ready to fill in spots from a year ago. We have an athletic team that really loves to compete, and we will be looking forward to using that this upcoming season. We play in a chal-

lenging conference and region within our state, so we know that we must show up every game and really work to be a consistent team. Our expectation for our group is each night to play into our identity as a team, play as hard as we possibly can, and to give our team a chance to win every game. We look forward to getting our season started!



## Oldham-Ramona-Rutland Boys Basketball

**Head Coach:** Cole Siegfried (2nd season)

**Assistant Coaches:** Logan Pesky and Blake Van Regenmorter  
**2023-24 Recap:** Went 4-17 overall and 1-9 in the Dakota Valley Conference.

**Top Athletes Lost:** Caden Hojer, Logan Trygstad and Cooper Merager.

**Top Returning Athletes:** Boyd Pooler, Brayden Hanson, Brennan Bickett and Brodie Albertson. Hanson scored a career-high 25 points and grabbed nine rebounds against Arlington last year. Pooler scored 27 points and had 12 rebounds and four steals against Faulkton Area.

**Strengths:** We are going to be a tough and physical team. We

are striving towards becoming a better overall defensive team.

**Weaknesses:** Some weaknesses are that we are still young and will make mistakes. We had some tough injuries happen during Football season that will affect our team. We will need some younger guys to step up and play at a high level for us this season.

**Coach Comments:** I can't say it enough, these kids work extremely hard every day and they love to practice at a high level. Our team goal for this year was to keep teams under 65 points. I also wanted our team defense to be way better. We will have our ups and downs, but I want them to understand that we can never quit.

## Elkton-Lake Benton Boys Basketball

**Head Coach:** Steve Erickson (18th season)

**Assistant Coaches:** Jason DeZeeuw and Aiden Erickson

**2023-24 Recap:** Went 7-14 overall. Only had two seniors so no much experience. We had a really tough schedule and was proud of the way our guys continued to work on getting better and controlling the things they can control. We just have to execute the simple things and not make the game harder than it needs to be for us. I believe our group last year set the tone and showed this group how they need to compete to be successful.

**Top Athletes Lost:** Carson Griffith and Wade Nibbe.

**Top Returning Athletes:** Tanner Drietz, who was All-DVC Honorable Mention. Colt Beck, Eliot Erickson and Blake DeVries.

**Strengths:** I feel like we are going

to have a bunch of guys that can play, contribute, compete for us at the varsity level and allow us to mix up what we do on both ends of the floor. The numbers and athletes we have should lead to some good competition during practice which will in turn make us better. We have an athletic group that should be able to get up and down the floor, play fast, and create some offense through our defense.

**Coach Comments:** Looking forward to the season with this group. They are a competitive, hard-working group and come ready to get after it each day which makes practice enjoyable and fun to watch them compete and improve. We will again be challenged by our schedule, but I think we have the chance to improve on what we have done the last couple of years if the consistency that we have been missing is there from our guys.



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# Elkton-Lake Benton Girls Basketball



Back Row (Left to Right): Gella Jones, Jocelyn Prosch, Maya Jensen, Charlie Thooft, Madde Jensen, Andrea Renkly, Addison Schmidt, Maddisyn Thompson, Dailynn Schomp, Adelynn Renkly, Samantha Stein. **Front Row:** Breanna Drietz, Ashya Flores, Payton Kuehl, Brooklyn Boersma, Sydney DeVries, Jerika Koopman, Ashley Flores, Alma Morales, Jaelynn Hoem, Anna Drietz.

**Head Coach:** Miakken Vincent (1st season)  
**Assistant Coach:** Kylie Ramlo  
**2023-24 Recap:** Went 13-8 overall  
**Top Athletes Lost:** Teven Erickson and

**Returning Players:** Andrea Renkly, Charlie Thooft and Sydney DeVries  
**Strengths:** I think that you can look for us to use our speed to keep

teams on their toes.  
**Weaknesses:** Young team with only two seniors. We will be adapting to a new style of play and embracing change as they will be learning a new system

of play.  
**Coach Comments:** Our athletes are very excited for this season; I would expect to see a lot of growth from the start of the year to the end. The more these

girls play basketball this season the better they will become. I saw this happen over the summer and hope that this season will grow the girls love for basketball.



## Estelline/Hendricks Boys Basketball

**Head Coach:** Andy Hansen

**Assistant Coaches:** Brandon Krein and Luke Jansen

**2023-24 Recap:** Went 11-10 overall

**Top Athletes Lost:** Mattix Hausman

**Top Returners:** Wyatt James, All-Conference three-year starter. Matthew McAninch and Braxton Pravecek, who are both three-year starters. Kyler Carlson.

**Strengths:** This year we return

three of our top four leading scorers from last year and three returning starters.

**Weakness:** We will have lots of depth and players who can make an impact in a variety of ways.

**Coach Comments:** We have a tough overall schedule, but are looking forward to the challenge and see where we can rank among some of the better teams in the state.

## Estelline/Hendricks Girls Basketball

**Head Coach:** Caleb DeKam

**Assistant Coaches:** Kaylee Hasche and Kierstan Jenson

**2023-24 Recap:** 11-9 overall. Beat Deubrook and Castlewood and had first winning record in seven years.

**Top Athletes Lost:** Kenzy Beare, Sadie Johnson, Claire Dagle, Rachel Hexem, Nataley Ebbers and Emma Pierce.

**Top Returning Athletes:**

Brooke Johnson, who is a four-year starter. Alya Texley, who was an All-DVC Honorable Mention.

**Strengths:** Quickness, shooting and perimeter defense.

**Weaknesses:** Size, inexperience and rebounding.

**Coach Comments:** I think this team will get better every game and be competitive in the games they play in this year.

## Iroquois/Lake Preston Girls Basketball



From left to right: Skyla Harris, Brityn Davies, Natalie Cundy, Ava Newman, Kera Dubro, Chenoa Harris, Hadlee Holt, Alise Hope. Not pictured: Amelia Holland

**Head Coach:** Melanie Nelson (1st season)

**Assistant Coaches:** Chris Newman and Charlie Walter

**2023-24 Recap:** Went 10-12 overall and 7-9 in conference play

**Top Athletes Lost:** Addison Moore, Rebecca

Bich and Faith Steffenson  
**Strengths:** Post play and physicality.

**Weaknesses:** Outside shooting and depth.

**Coach Comments:** We are low in numbers but the girls are working hard and making sure to do all the little things right.

This year will be a bit of a rebuilding year with a new coach and new philosophies, but we are up to the challenge.





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