



Trojan gridders hope hard work translates into wins

MENDOTA—After getting a taste of playoff football in 2021, the Mendota Trojans missed out on the post-season last year with just three wins. Many of the returning players worked hard in the off-season in hopes of getting the Trojans back to the playoffs in 2023.

“Our attendance percentages and effort was very consistent this summer,” said head coach Keegan Hill. “The players’ retention of the concepts this first week of camp has been good. That is a testament to their investment in June and July at camp.”

Scoring points has been a strength of the football team in the past several seasons and Hill sees no reason why that won’t continue this fall.

“We have had opportunities to score because we use

the strengths on the unit,” Hill said. “I think we need to be a little more consistent game-to-game and start the game faster in the first quarter.”

One of the highlights of the 2022 campaign was the play of quarterback Justin Randolph, who is back for his senior season in 2023. The signal-caller completed 89 of 169 passes for 1,472 yards last year. He threw for 12 touchdowns and only five interceptions.

“Justin has had a positive summer and will continue to grow as a passer and a leader of the offensive unit,” explained Hill. “His understanding of the game and attacking what the defense presents is critical to our production.”

See Football, Page 6



Front row, left to right, Austin Welch, Corbin Furar, Gavin Evans, Dimitri Rodriguez, Payton Gagliardo, Tayven Orozco, William Musanovic, Diego Sandoval. Second row, Joshua Shakespeare, Brandon Leadley, Aden Tillman, Keegan Beetz, Angil Serrano, Reese Lane, Anthony Seablom, Rhett Watson, Mike Thornhill. Third row, Dean Gilbert, Nathan Giberson, Joe Stewart, Justin Randolph, Xzavior Orozco, Wyatt Ossman, Braiden Freeman, Gabriel Vallejo, Devin DeSoto, Logan Wujek. Back row, coach Steve Villegas, coach Cody Zinke, coach Dan Beck, head coach Keegan Hill, coach Sean Kaufman, coach Brock Zinke, coach Cesar Arteaga.



Front row, left to right, Brody Hartt, Collin Coss, Owen Aughenbaugh, Ivan Botello, Nick Sheridan, Kooper Novak. Middle row, Cale Strouss, Haden Shakespeare, Caeleb Ensor, Grady Jones, Evan McPheeters. Back row, Jace Baird, Dane Doyle, Jonas Fitzgerald, Brody Kaecker, Alex Holland, coach David Ross. Not pictured, assistant coach Brian Blumhorst.

Graduation takes toll on MHS golf team; spots up for grabs

MENDOTA — Graduation took a toll on the Mendota Trojan golf team, so filling the playing roster will be up for grabs in the 2023 season.

Head coach David Ross said six seniors departed from last year’s squad, so there is for sure going to be a need for the younger players to step up and occupy those positions.

There are four seniors on the 15-player roster. Owen Aughenbaugh and Cale Strouss saw considerable playing time on the varsity team last year and

will be counted on mightily to contribute to the team’s success.

“Owen has made it to sectionals the previous two years and he is on the hunt to qualify for state this year,” said Ross. “I know he will be going all in trying to make that happen.”

The other seniors are Jace Baird and Haden Shakespeare.

Evan McPheeters is the lone junior squad member and Ross is confident his ability will shine through this season.

“I expect Evan

(McPheeters) to find a home in the top six this year,” noted Ross. “He has been playing a lot of golf this summer and working on his game.”

Sophomores Brody Hartt and Dane Doyle got some varsity playing time last year and Ross expects them to come back stronger with some experience under their belts. They are two of nine sophomores on the roster. The others are Brody Kaecker, Kooper Novak, Grady

See Golf, Page 3

Veteran team has Spikers setting their sights high

MENDOTA – The Mendota Spikers made it to double-digit wins last season, but just barely. That was with a team made up by a majority of underclass players. This year, a majority of those players are seniors, and that has the team setting its sights on much loftier heights.

Of the 16 players on the roster, 10 are seniors. Having been in the program for three years and gone through the rigors of varsity volleyball, they are ready to break out in 2023.

“We are working hard and we continue to grow each and every day we are in the gym, and together as a unit,” said head coach Nicci Gibson. “We are a senior-led team with a great group of girls that want to win and compete in practice every day.”

Heading the list of senior returnees is Reanna Brant at the middle hitter position. The six-footer earned first-team all-conference honors and all-area honorable mention recognition last season. Senior Lilly Leifheit claimed second-team all-conference recognition and was also an all-area honorable mention player from the libero position in 2023, while senior Madelyn Becker started every game last year and set up the offense along with the graduated Katie Jenner.

Also returning out of the senior class are Grace Wasmer, who will occupy a middle hitter position, Ana Ramirez and Ryleigh

Sondgeroth, who are senior leaders in the back row, and hitters Bria Frey, Kiara Johnson, Ava Jones and Emma Pierce.

“Our theme this year is leadership,” said Gibson. “We are mainly senior-led with five of our six potential starters being seniors.

“Reanna Brant has been with me for four years now and Madelyn (Becker) and Lilly (Leifheit) had some practice and playing time with varsity their sophomore years.

“They are fun to have in the gym. They are competitive and great leaders, and examples for our culture and the Mendota High School volleyball program.”

The rest of the squad is comprised of five juniors and one sophomore. The sophomore is Laylie Denault, who was a starter at outside hitter in her freshman season.

Gibson said Denault will continue in the role of outside hitter in her second season of high school volleyball. Juniors who will compete for playing time in middle and outside hitter positions include Kirby Bond, Ella Coss and Kennedy Knaff. Juniors Ella Martin (setter) and Ava Eddy (defensive specialist) complete the roster.

Gibson said she is confident the team will improve on its 10-win season of a year ago.

“Our goal is to have fun, learn something about life through the game of volleyball, and be competitive



Front row, left to right, Ana Ramirez, Ava Jones, Lilly Leifheit, Ryleigh Sondgeroth, Ava Eddy. Middle row, Madelyn Becker, Emma Pierce, Kennedy Knaff, Ella Coss, Bria Frey, Ella Martin. Back row, Kirby Bond, Grace Wasmer, Reanna Brant, Kiara Johnson, Laylie Denault.

“We are working hard and we continue to grow each and every day we are in the gym, and together as a unit. We are a senior-led team with a great group of girls that want to win and compete in practice every day.”

—Coach Nicci Gibson

every day in practice and games,” noted Gibson. “We want to continue to create a winning culture/program, win the conference and advance in the post season.

“Our expectations are to work hard each day in the gym, to be great teammates, and to have character, communicate and control the things we can control.

We want to be consistent, take it one practice and one game at a time, learn from our mistakes, and continue to grow as players and young women on the court and in life. If we can do all of that, winning will happen.

“We are excited to be back in the gym and to create something special this season.”

Varsity Volleyball Roster

No	Player	Pos	Yr
2	Lilly Leifheit	L/DS	Sr
3	Ana Ramirez	DS	Sr
4	Laylie Denault	OH	So
5	Bria Frey	RH	Sr
6	Madelyn Becker	S/RH	Sr
7	Kirby Bond	OH	Jr
8	Ava Jones	RH	Sr
9	Ava Eddy	DS	Jr
11	Ella Coss	RH	Jr
12	Kennedy Knaff	MH	Jr
13	Emma Pierce	MH	Sr
14	Grace Wasmer	MH	Sr
15	Ella Martin	S	Jr
18	Ryleigh Sondgeroth	DS	Sr
20	Kiara Johnson	RH	Sr
22	Reanna Brant	MH	Sr

Head coach: Nicci Gibson

Spiker Volleyball Rosters

Sophomore Volleyball Roster

No	Player	Pos	Yr
4	Maren Atherton	DS/L	So
5	Katelyn Mikolasek	DS	So
6	Sydney Tolley	OH/RH	So
9	Sofia Gomez	OH/RH	So
10	Talia White	S/RH	So
11	Addisyn Jones	MB	So
14	Addyson Allensworth	OH/MB	So
16	Elaina Reddin	MB/RH	So
20	Airam Cuevas	DS	So
21	Ally Denault	OH/RH	So
22	Jessica Reel	S/RH	So
23	Janae Carr	DS	So

Head coach: Christin Atherton

Freshman Volleyball Roster

No	Player	Pos	Yr
1	Jocelyn Figueroa	OH/RH	Fr
2	Michelle Cuevas	DS	Fr
3	Kate Strouss	S	Fr
4	Harlow Foltyniewicz	S	Fr
5	Kara Miars	DS	Fr
6	Lexi Cocanour	MB	Fr
7	Ava Christmann	OH	Fr
8	Elaina Koch	MB	Fr
9	Karissa Freeman	OH/RH	Fr
11	Monse Chavez	OH/RH	Fr
12	Sophia Orozco	DS	Fr
15	Emily Diaz	OH	Fr
16	Abbie Kreiser	DS	Fr
17	Addison Perryman	RH	Fr
18	Arihanna Figueroa	MB	Fr
22	Aby Buettner	MB	Fr
24	Parker Stavropoulos	DS	Fr

Head coach: Laura McNally



Volleyball schedule

Aug. 24 – Amboy – 5 p.m.
 Aug. 29 – Bureau Valley – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 1 – at Oregon Tourney (V) – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 2 – at Oregon Tourney (V) – 8 a.m.
 Sept. 7 – Princeton – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 9 – Mendota Rally Invite (So) – 8 a.m.
 Sept. 12 – Newman – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 13 – Sandwich – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 16 – at Ottawa Tourney (Fr) – 8:30 a.m.
 Sept. 19 – at Bureau Valley – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 20 – at Kewanee – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 23 – at Reed-Custer Tourney (V) – 8 a.m.
 Sept. 23 – at Byron Tourney (Fr) – 8 a.m.
 Sept. 26 – at Hall – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 28 – Somonauk – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 30 – at Byron Tourney (So) – 9 a.m.
 Sept. 30 – Mendota Rally Invite (Fr) – 8 a.m.
 Oct. 2 – at Ottawa – 5 p.m.
 Oct. 3 – at Newman – 5 p.m.
 Oct. 5 – at Princeton – 6 p.m.
 Oct. 7 – at Princeton Tourney (V) – 8 a.m.
 Oct. 7 – at Pecatonica Tourney (So) – 8:30 a.m.
 Oct. 10 – Kewanee – 5 p.m.
 Oct. 14 – Mendota Rally Invite (V) – 8 a.m.
 Oct. 14 – at Fulton Tourney (So) – 8 a.m.
 Oct. 16 – Hall – 5 p.m.
 Oct. 23-28 – Regional



Boys' Soccer schedule

Aug. 25 – at Oregon Tourney – 4:30 p.m.
 Aug. 26 – at Oregon Tourney – 10 a.m.
 Aug. 29 – at Riverdale – 4:30 p.m.
 Aug. 31 – DePue – 4:30 p.m.
 Sept. 1 – Orion – 4:30 p.m.
 Sept. 6 – at Kewanee – 4:30 p.m.
 Sept. 9 – Body Armour Series @ Schaumburg – TBA
 Sept. 13 – at Bloomington Central Catholic – 6 p.m.
 Sept. 18 – at Streator – 4:30 p.m.
 Sept. 19 – at Princeton – 4:30 p.m.
 Sept. 23 – Monmouth-Roseville – 10:30 a.m.
 Sept. 26 – Dixon – 4:30 p.m.
 Sept. 28 – Somonauk – 4:30 p.m.
 Sept. 29-30 – Great River Classic @ Burlington, Iowa – TBA
 Oct. 4 – Winnebago – 4:30 p.m.
 Oct. 5 – at Rochelle – 4:30 p.m.
 Oct. 6-14 – Regional

Golf

Continued from Page 1

Jones, Nick Sheridan, Alex Holland, Caeleb Ensor and Jonas Fitzgerald.

Two freshmen on the team are Collin Coss and

Ivan Botello.

“We have consistently put golfers into the sectional round of the state tournament,” said Ross. “Hopefully this year we can get beyond that.”

Golf schedule

Aug. 29 – at Riverdale – 4 p.m.
 Aug. 31 – at Newman – 4 p.m.
 Sept. 5 – at Princeton – 4 p.m.
 Sept. 7 – at Morrison (St. Bede) – 4 p.m.
 Sept. 8 – at Bureau Valley (Sherrard) – 4 p.m.
 Sept. 12 – Kewanee, Monmouth-R. – 4 p.m.
 Sept. 14 – at LaSalle-Peru – 4 p.m.
 Sept. 16 – at Princeton – 8 a.m.
 Sept. 19 – Three Rivers Meet @ Mendota – 8 a.m.
 Sept. 21 – at Ottawa – 4 p.m.
 Sept. 23 – Mendota Ryder Cup – 8:30 a.m.
 Sept. 27 – Regional

Varsity Soccer Roster

No	Player	Yr
2	Angel Orozco	So
3	Gael Garcia	Fr
4	Kaleb Kleckner	Sr
5	Mauricio Salinas	Jr
6	Ramiro Palacios	So
7	Isaac Diaz	Fr
8	Cameron Kelly	Jr
9	David Casas	Jr
10	Johan Cortez	So
11	Izaiah Nanez	Sr
12	Fredy Mandujano	Sr
13	Sebastian Carlos	So
14	Logan Dewey	Sr
15	Luis Ramirez	So
16	Mauricio Martinez	So
17	Cesar Casas	Fr
18	Cameron Escatel	Jr
19	Aaden Castle	So
20	Sam Matura	Jr
21	Alex Beetz	So
22	Bryan Herrera	Sr
23	Danny Garcia	Fr
25	Aaren Venegas	Fr
GK	Mateo Goy	So

Head coach: Nick Myers

Assistant coach: Rey Arteaga

Junior Varsity Soccer Roster

No	Player	Yr
3	Alex Beetz	So
4	Aaden Castle	So
5	Benoni Hernandez	Fr
6	Cole Kleckner	Fr
7	Jamal Lesley	Fr
8	Ozzy Arteaga	So
9	Luis Ramirez	So
10	Emiliano Medina	So
11	Emmanuel Medina	So
12	Sam Matura	Jr
13	Mauricio Salinas	So
14	Angel Negron	Fr
15	Favian Romero	Fr
16	Jhosua Lopez-Chicas Jr	Fr
17	Alex Ramirez	Jr
18	Jose Hernandez	Jr
20	Adan Medina	Fr
22	Berat Imeri	Fr
23	Blake Bute	Fr
24	Christian Gonzalez	Fr
25	Adan Estrada	Fr
26	Aaren Venegas	Fr

Head coach: Nick Myers

Assistant coach: Rey Arteaga

Youth in front, experience in back for Trojan soccer

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Nick Myers and Rey Arteaga haven't had to scratch their heads much in the offseason.

The Mendota boys' soccer team coaches knew they were losing key seniors to the squad that played for a sectional championship last season and won the Trojans' first sectional championship the year before.

Instead of debating on what should happen with the team next, they already knew the 2023 team's potential.

"I don't want to call this year a rebuilding year because I think we're still going to be very competitive and do well in the regular season, tournaments, and hopefully make a long play-off push," said head coach Myers. "But we're only returning four everyday starters from last season. We have some other guys that are returning that started for us off and on or they came off of the bench. With five seniors and six juniors, over 50 percent of our roster this year is going to be freshmen and sophomores. We're very young this year, but we're extremely talented."

"I think at the beginning of the season we may take a few lumps because we lack experience at the high school level. It'll be nice to get a couple close games in the beginning of the year to see how we handle it. My expectations are still very high."

"I told the boys at the

first day of practice, my goals have not changed. I still want to win 20 games. I still want to win the Three Rivers Conference. I still want to win regionals and see what happens when we get to sectionals. I think this team can do it. I just think it's going to be a maturity factor with this group."

Myers, who is starting his fifth year of his second term with the team and ninth overall, is packing the front with youth and the backfield with experience and leadership.

The offensive attack will be built around two sophomores, Sebastian Carlos and Johan Cortez, and two freshmen, Cesar Casas and Isaac Diaz.

Although Myers and Arteaga saw glimpses of what the two sophomore forwards could do, they're ready for a full season onslaught.

"They're going to be huge for us this year. Johan, as a freshman last year, produced 21 goals. In the beginning, he was inconsistent with his confidence being a freshman, he would start a few games and then he would come off of the bench because he wasn't playing very well," Myers said. "Toward the end of the year, he was a key piece for us. He scored in every big game that we had. Granted we lost 7-1 in the sectional championship to Quincy Notre Dame, as a freshman, Johan scored the only goal for us."

"If I could put a label on the player of the offseason, I would put it on Sebastian."



Front row, left to right, Mateo Goy, Mauricio Martinez, Angel Orozco, Aaden Castle, Mauricio Salinas. Second row, manager Crystal Garcia, Bryan Herrera, Cameron Escatel, Johan Cortez, Sebastian Carlos, Cameron Kelly, Danny Garcia, manager Noemi Arteaga. Third row, assistant coach Rey Arteaga, Gael Garcia, Aaron Venegas, Cesar Casas, Luis Ramirez, Sam Matura, Kaleb Kleckner, manager Kaley Siemer. Back row, Fredy Mandujano, David Casas, Alex Beetz, Logan Dewey, Izaiah Nanez, Isaac Diaz, Ramiro Palacios, head coach Nick Myers.

His confidence going into his sophomore year is so much better than before. He didn't score very many goals last year. I think he had an issue with his confidence and him understanding that he is talented enough to play at this level. This year, over the summer, he's been scoring goals left and right. I'm expecting huge things out of him this season."

The four returning everyday starters and other upper-

classmen will be found in the backfield playing defense.

Senior Izaiah Nanez will be at centerback, senior Kaleb Kleckner at outsideback, senior Mauricio Martinez at center back, and junior David Casas will be the enforcer at defensive midfield.

Nanez, Kleckner, and Casas have been named the team's three captains.

Sophomore Mateo Goy will be in the net as goal-keeper.

"I told the boys at the first day of practice, my goals have not changed. I still want to win 20 games. I still want to win the Three Rivers Conference. I still want to win regionals and see what happens when we get to sectionals."

—Coach Nick Myers



**PROUD SUPPORTERS OF THE
MENDOTA TROJANS!**



Mendota cross country runners enthusiastic for the season

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – If you drove past Mendota High School at 5 p.m. Monday through Friday over the last two weeks, you saw a group of runners stretching their legs.

They're not just stretching for leisure runs, but to train as the MHS boys' and girls' cross country teams are pounding the course to get ready for the season.

The boys team has 10 runners with three of them having experience and success.

"We graduated a pair of seniors from a pretty successful team we had last year," coach Kevin W Ehrley said. "We have Anthony Kelson back as a junior. As a sophomore, he had a very successful season and punched himself a ticket to the IHSA State Meet.

"Dagen Setchell is a runner possessed out there. He really pushed hard this summer and is taking leadership real serious with the team. Junior Travis Mumm is entering his third season with us. He brings a lot of experience after a good track season."

Setchell, a senior, has emerged as the team leader vocally and by display as he tallied up miles and dedicated himself to be a better runner.

Last season, Kelson finished 10th at the Class 1A Rock Falls Regional with a time of 16:42, 17th at the Oregon Sectional in 17:26, and ran a 17:15.09 for 119 out of 258 at state.



Front row, left to right, Liam Sheppard, Aidan Fisher, Ryder Woods, Peri Manning. Middle row, Anna Valdes, Hector Gonzalez, Payton Stavropoulos, Anthony Kelson, Dawson McPheeters. Back row, Emily Banks, Spencer Kain, Harlan Gallagher, Dagen Setchell, Travis Mumm, coach Kevin W Ehrley.

"Last year's state meet was less than ideal conditions at Detweiller Park (in Peoria). There were horizontal rains and it was frigid," W Ehrley said. "He ran the best race he could in those conditions. No one ran that course with a bigger smile than Anthony Kelson. He loves the sport. He loves to run. He's a great spirit and I know state has to be set in his mind for this fall."

Junior Aidan Fisher, who is new to the team, rounds out the four varsity runners on the team, while the other six are underclassmen in sophomores Spencer Kain,

Harlan Gallagher, and Hector Gonzalez, and freshmen Dawson McPheeters, Liam Sheppard, and Ryder Woods.

"We have returning sophomores in Spencer and Harlan. They were both beginners last year. They did some good things and I think they're going to set some personal records early in the season," W Ehrley said. "Hector Gonzalez comes to us from the track program. He ran distance for the track team, and I know he got in a lot of miles over the summer. We also have three incoming freshmen that show a lot of promise in Dawson, Liam,

and Ryder."

The girls' team has four runners, which is one more than last season.

Sophomore Anna Valdes returns and is joined by junior Payton Stavropoulos and sophomores Emily Banks and Peri Manning.

Although new to Mendota and W Ehrley, Stavropoulos ran last year for DeKalb High School and Banks ran in Joliet.

Manning is new to cross country, but she is a softball player who W Ehrley says has the competitive drive and fire to want to improve and help the team.



Cross Country schedule

Aug. 24 – at Genoa-Kingston – 5 p.m.
Aug. 29 – at Ottawa – 4:30 p.m.
Sept. 2 – at Oregon – 9 a.m.
Sept. 5 – at Winnebago – 4:30 p.m.
Sept. 12 – at LaSalle-Peru – 4:30 p.m.
Sept. 16 – at Bureau Valley Invite – 9:30 a.m.
Sept. 19 – Amboy, Hall, Princeton, Putnam Co., St. Bede – 4 p.m.
Sept. 23 – at Kewanee – 9:30 a.m.
Sept. 26 – Three Rivers Meet @ Kewanee – 4:30 p.m.
Sept. 30 – at Streator – 9 a.m.
Oct. 4 – DePue, Dixon, Streator – 4 p.m.
Oct. 9 – at Amboy Invite – 10 a.m.
Oct. 21 – Regional

SCHOOL & SPORTS PHYSICALS

We Do Sports Physicals!

Davis Family Health LLC

1201 Meriden St.
Mendota, IL
(Across from Sullivan's)
815-538-1800

The office takes Medicaid, Medicare and almost all commercial insurances

Call for appointments, blood draws and injections

Our clinic hours are:

Monday: 8:30-12 & 1-4

Tuesday: 8-12 & 1-4

*with Dr. Kelly in office

Wednesday: 8:30-12 & 1-4

Thursday: 8:30-12 & 1-4

*Dr. Kelly in office from 1-4

Friday: 8-12 & 1-4

**with Dr. Kelly in office for provider appts.

Closed Sat./Sun.

Dr. Kelly is also in the Rochelle office
(1212 Currency Ct.)
on M, W and Th.
Call 815-561-8500.



PROUD SUPPORTERS OF THE MENDOTA TROJANS!



Football

Continued from Page 1

Randolph's favorite target last season was Braiden Freeman. He hauled in 32 passes for 651 yards in his sophomore campaign, and will no doubt be plenty busy gathering in aerials his junior year.

"Braiden had a positive season as a sophomore and is coming off of a very positive summer of workouts and camp," said Hill.

Hill said the receiver corps will be a well-rounded group, with Keegan Beetz, Aden Tillman, Rhett Watson, Keegen Stewart and Wyatt Ossman other players in the mix for playing time.

One area that will have a lack of varsity experience heading into the 2023 campaign is running back. A bulk of the load was carried by seniors last season, so a new group of players will have to step to the forefront when it comes to running the ball.

Hill said the coaches are looking at multiple players to fill the running back positions, including Stewart, Tillman, Ossman, Corbin Furar and Diego Sandoval.

Key to a successful running game comes from the guys up front, with Hill noting "the best positions on the field are the linemen." He said contributors on the offensive line will be Gabe Vallejo, Reese Lane, Joe Stewart, Logan Wujek, Nate Giberson and Angil Serrano. Vallejo and Serrano saw significant playing time last year as sophomores.

Just as the Trojan offense lit up the scoreboard in a majority of games the last two seasons, the opposition has done the same to the Mendota defense. Hill is hoping to shore up the defense in 2023.

Competing for defensive line positions will be Wujek, Vallejo, Joe Stewart, Serrano, Mike Thornhill and Xzavior Orozco. Hill said candidates for linebacker spots include Ossman, Furar and Sandoval, while

the defensive backfield contenders are Freeman, Watson and Keegen Stewart at safety, and Tillman, Gavin Evans and Brandon Leadley at corner.

Hill noted that many of the players' commitment to the summer program has put the team in a place to build confidence leading up to the season-opener on Friday, Aug. 25 at Morrison.

"What we do with that opportunity is up to us," he said.



Varsity Football schedule

Aug. 25 – at Morrison – 7 p.m.

Sept. 1 – Orion – 7 p.m.

Sept. 8 – at Kewanee – 7 p.m.

Sept. 15 – Hall – 7 p.m.

Sept. 22 – at Bureau Valley – 7 p.m.

Sept. 30 – Riverdale – 3 p.m.

Oct. 6 – at Geneseo – 7 p.m.

Oct. 13 – at Princeton – 7 p.m.

Oct. 20 – Newman – 7 p.m.

Oct. 27-28 – First Round Playoffs

Freshman-Sophomore Football schedule

Aug. 28 – Morrison – 5:30 p.m.

Sept. 4 – at Orion – 5:30 p.m.

Sept. 11 – Kewanee – 5:30 p.m.

Sept. 18 – at Hall – 5:30 p.m.

Sept. 25 – Bureau Valley – 5:30 p.m.

Oct. 2 – at Riverdale – 5:30 p.m.

Oct. 9 – Geneseo – 5:30 p.m.

Oct. 16 – Princeton – 5:30 p.m.

Oct. 23 – at Newman – 5:30 p.m.

Varsity Football Roster

No	Player	Pos	Yr
1	Justin Randolph	QB-DB	Sr
2	Keegan Beetz	WR-DB	So
3	Rhett Watson	WR-DB	Jr
4	William Musanovic	WR-DB	So
5	Wyatt Ossman	TE-LB	So
6	Corbin Furar	RB-LB	So
7	Dean Gilbert	WR-LB	Sr
9	Gavin Evans	WR-DB	So
11	Aden Tillman	WR-DB	So
12	Braiden Freeman	WR-DB	Jr
15	Brandon Leadley	WR-DB	Jr
20	Tayven Orozco	RB-LB	So
21	Payton Gagliardo	RB-LB	So
23	Anthony Seablom	WR-DB	So
25	Diego Sandoval	RB-DL	Sr
50	Logan Wujek	OL-DL	Sr
52	Joe Stewart	OL-DL	So
55	Reese Lane	OL-DL	So
56	Dimitri Rodriguez	OL-DL	Sr
58	Mike Thornhill	OL-DL	Jr
59	Austin Welch	OL-DL	So
60	Angil Serrano	OL-DL	Jr
62	Devin DeSoto	TE-DL	So
65	Joshua Shakespeare	OL-DL	So
70	Xzavior Orozco	OL-DL	Sr
75	Gabriel Vallejo	OL-DL	Jr
76	Nathan Giberson	OL-DL	So

Head coach: Keegan Hill

Assistant coaches: Brock Zinke, Dan Beck, Cesar Arteaga, Steve Villegas, Sean Kaufman, Cody Zinke, Jason Weber

Frosh/Soph Football Roster

No	Player	Pos	Yr
1	Javier Hernandez	QB-DB	Fr
2	Bailey Ryan	WR-DB	Fr
6	Gavin Evans	QB-DB	So
7	Daniel Pierce	RB-LB	Fr
9	Adrian Arteaga	WR-DB	Fr
10	William Musanovic	WR-DB	So
12	Cayden Taliani	WR-DB	Fr
13	Gavin Stevenson	RB-DB	Fr
15	Drew Becker	WR-DB	Fr
20	Jayden Lesley	RB-LB	Fr
33	Cam Wasmer	TE-DB	Fr
34	Payton Gagliardo	RB-LB	So
35	Tayven Orozco	RB-LB	So
40	Anthony Seablom	WR-DB	So
45	Ryan Gibertini	TE-DL	Fr
55	Zachary Schmidt	OL-DL	Fr
56	Karson Sundberg	OL-DL	Fr
59	Kaleb Bodie	OL-DL	Fr
68	Joshua Shakespeare	OL-DL	So
70	Devin Cooper	OL-DL	Fr
76	DuJuan Porte	OL-DL	Fr
77	Madrick Musgrove	OL-DL	Fr
79	Austin Welch	OL-DL	So
80	Devin DeSoto	TE-DL	So

Head coach: Steve Villegas

Assistant coaches: Sean Kaufman, Cesar Arteaga

Go Trojans!!

Girls' Tennis schedule

Aug. 24 – at LaSalle-Peru – 3:30 p.m.

Aug. 26 – at Newman Invite – 9 a.m.

Aug. 29 – Kewanee – 4 p.m.

Aug. 31 – at Sterling – 4:30 p.m.

Sept. 2 – at Coal City Tourney – 8 a.m.

Sept. 5 – at Newman – 4 p.m.

Sept. 7 – at Princeton – 4:30 p.m.

Sept. 11 – Coal City – 4 p.m.

Sept. 12 – Dixon – 4 p.m.

Sept. 19 – R. Christian, R. Lutheran – 4 p.m.

Sept. 21 – at Ottawa – 4:30 p.m.

Sept. 23 – at LaSalle-Peru Invite – 8:30 a.m.

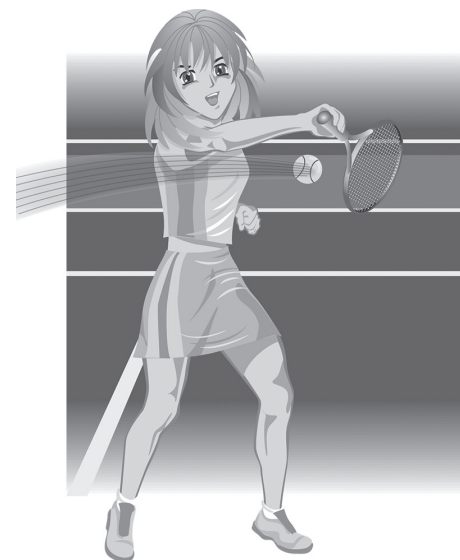
Sept. 25 – Rochelle – 4 p.m.

Sept. 28 – Morris – 4 p.m.

Oct. 3 – at Streator – 4 p.m.

Oct. 7 – Mendota Tourney – 8 a.m.

Oct. 13-14 – Sectional



PROUD SUPPORTERS OF THE MENDOTA TROJANS!





Freshman-Sophomore Football

Front row, left to right, Gavin Stevenson, Adrian Arteaga, Devin Cooper, Zachary Schmidt, Karson Sundberg, William Musanovic, Kaleb Brodie, Ryan Gibertini, Bailey Ryan. Second row, Payton Gagliardo, Javier Hernandez, Cayden Taliani, Tayven Orozco, Daniel Pierce, Austin Welch, Gavin Evans, Jayden Lesley. Third row, Anthony Seablom, Madrick Musgrove, DuJuan Porte, Joshua Shakespeare, Devin DeSoto, Cam Wasmer, Drew Becker. Back row, coach Sean Kaufman, head coach Steve Villegas, coach Cesar Arteaga.



Junior Varsity Soccer

Front row, left to right, Christian Gonzalez, Blake Bute, Adan Medina, Gianni Figueroa, Jhosua Lopez-Chicas, Cole Kleckner, Aaden Castle, Angel Negron. Middle row, Jose Hernandez, Benoni Hernandez, Sam Matura, Luis Ramirez, Ozzy Arteaga, Mauricio Salinas, Berat Imeri. Back row, Emmanuel Medina, Aaron Venegas, Adan Estrada, Alex Beetz, Alex Ramirez, Jamal Lesley, Emiliano Medina, coach Rey Arteaga. Not pictured, Favian Romero.



Freshman-Sophomore Tennis

Front row, left to right, Bailey Oliver, Laina Gonzalez, Stephanie Casas. Middle row, Karla Ascensio, Emily Sondgeroth, Janelle Rodriguez, Chloe Walzer. Back row, Caitlynn Rodrick, Makenzie Mumm, Gracie Botts, Lucie Brandner, coach Jason Artman.



Freshman Volleyball

Front row, left to right, Kara Miars, Kate Strouss, Abbie Kreiser, Michelle Cuevas. Middle row, Karissa Freeman, Ava Christmann, Sophia Orozco, Parker Stavropoulas, Monse Chavez. Back row, Arihanna Figueroa, Aby Buettner, Harlow Foltyniewicz, Addison Perryman, Elaina Koch, Emily Diaz. Not pictured, Lexi Cocanour, Jocelyn Figueroa.



Sophomore Volleyball

Front row, left to right, Airam Cuevas, Maren Atherton, Katelyn Mikolasek. Middle row, Ally Denault, Addyson Allensworth, Sofia Gomez, Jessica Reel. Back row, Janae Carr, Sydney Tolley, Elaina Reddin, Talia White, Addisyn Jones.



Cheerleaders

Front row, left to right, Christianah Brown, Talya Rosales, Korinne Miars, Dessa Komitas, JazLynn Gambrel, Briza Cervantes. Middle row, coach Katrina Flahive, Celah Jackson, Reushawna Durr, Sophia Pappas, coach Anna Weber. Back row, coach Lisa Schroeder, Elessandra Enriquez, Mariyah Elam, Ruby Bielema, Claire Hanson, Makenzie Bean.



Front row, left to right, Angela Figueroa, Marah Figueroa, Lauren Holland, Lissette Sandoval. Middle row, Lily Bokus, Ava Beetz, Jackie Flores, Natalia Salinas, Kylie Goldblatt. Back row, Lidia Hernandez, Leah Stamberger, Ella Lewis, coach Shawn LeRette.

MHS searching for perfect doubles fits

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**

Staff writer

MENDOTA – When the Mendota girls' tennis team takes the court this fall, you'll be familiar with the two singles players.

Sophomore Ella Lewis returns as the No. 1 singles player and senior Natalia Salinas is back as the No. 2 singles player.

However, the doubles teams are going to be a brand-new look. Not just from last year to this year, but after each match as the season endures.

"We're trying to figure out what we're going to do for doubles," said head coach Shawn LeRette. "I've got Marah Figueroa, who is a senior and will figure into doubles. I brought up three sophomores including Lewis. The two other sophomores, Kylie Goldblatt and Leah Stamberger, will figure into doubles somewhere. Lauren Holland, Jackie Flores, and Lidia Hernandez are my three returning juniors and they'll figure into doubles as well.

"Singles is pretty set, but for doubles we'll be figuring it out as we go through the season. The nice thing about not having any set doubles teams is you can kind of mix and match your doubles teams to see who plays well with who and who maybe doesn't play well with someone. You move them around until it clicks. When you get the fit that you know is going to be a doubles team."

The junior varsity and varsity team combined for 23 players on the roster, although only 10 are on the varsity team.

Salinas and Figueroa are MHS's only seniors. There are five juniors as Holland, Flores, and Hernandez are joined by Ava Beetz, who played as a freshman before taking a year off, and Lily Bokus, who previously played volleyball. The three sophomores, Lewis, Goldblatt, and Stamberger round out the 10-player varsity roster.

This is the last time LeRette will be assigning singles and doubles players as he is hanging up the clipboard for good after this season.

"This is it for me. This is year 18 and I'll be retiring at the end of the year from teaching and coaching," LeRette said. "It's a little sad, but it's at the point where I've done what I can do and maybe someone can take it farther.

"I know others think, 'It's only been 18 years. Tom Corrigan put in 35.' That's the nice thing about replacing a legend. It's my turn to be done, though."

The junior varsity squad consists of senior Angela Figueroa, junior Lissette Sandoval, sophomores Chloe Walzer, Lucie Brandner, Stephanie Casas, Janelle Rodriguez, Gracie Botts, and freshmen Karla Ascensio, Makenzie Mumm, Emily Sondgeroth, and Caitlynn Rodrick.

We've got you covered!

*From the first touchdown to the final volley,
The Mendota Reporter has all the details!*



Follow the local sports scene in The Reporter!
For subscription information, call 815-539-9396.



703 Illinois Ave.
PO Box 300
Mendota, IL 61342
815-539-9396
www.mendotareporter.com