



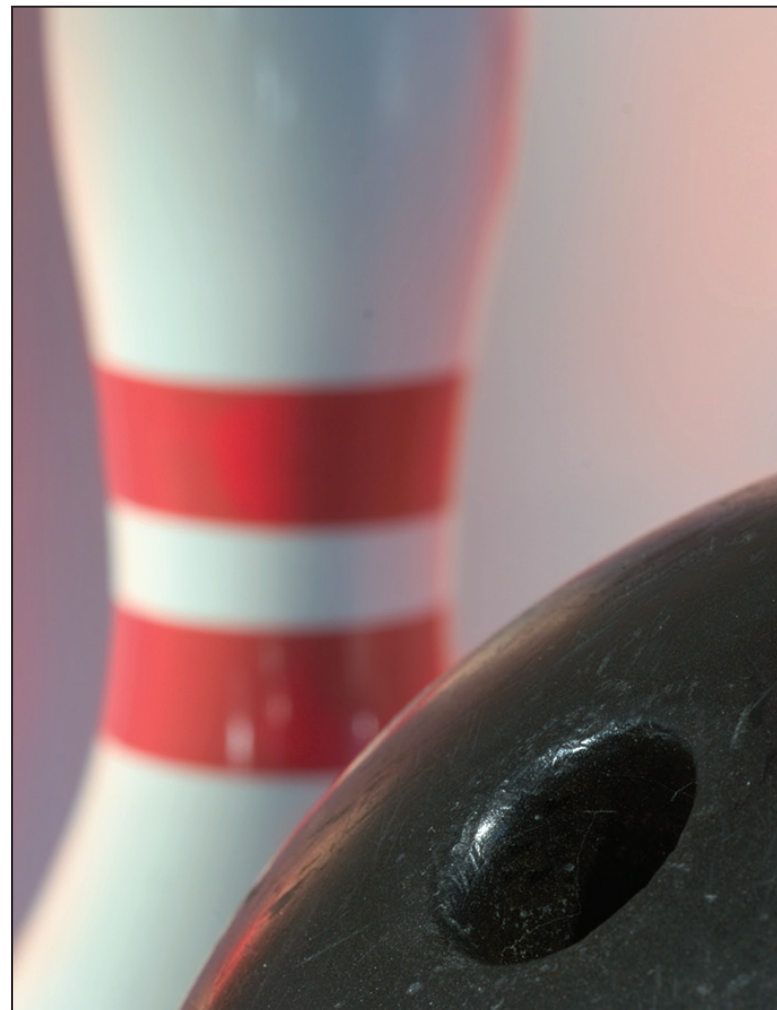
# Winter Sports Preview



Special Sports Section

Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021

The Mendota Reporter



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## Mendota Wrestling Roster 2021-22

Name	Year
Ethan Hanaman	Senior
Kailyn Jezewski	Senior
Danny Juan Gama	Junior
Logan West	Junior
JP Belmonte	Junior
Phoenix Wilstead	Sophomore
Diego Sandoval	Sophomore
Cadence Thornton	Freshman
Loralie Hart	Freshman
Rhett Watson	Freshman
Angil Serrano	Freshman
Keith Grim	Freshman
Lea Turner	Freshman
Jose Herмосillo	Freshman
<b>Head coach:</b> Dale Meyers	
<b>Assistant coaches:</b> Matt Hanaman, Nate Walter, Arty Serrano	



Front row, left to right, Loralie Hart, Rhett Watson, Phoenix Wilstead, Jose Herмосillo, Lea Turner, Logan West. Middle row, JP Belmonte, Ethan Hanaman, Kailyn Jezewski, Diego Sandoval, Cadence Thornton, assistant coach Matt Hanaman. Back row, head coach Dale Meyers, assistant coach Nate Walter, Keith Grim, Danny Juan Gama, Angil Serrano, assistant coach Arty Serrano.

## Freshmen dominate MHS wrestling roster

MENDOTA – The Mendota wrestling team will return to the mat for a full season after participating in a limited schedule in the spring. Fourteen squad members are on the roster for head coach Dale Meyers.

Just two seniors are on the team, Ethan Hanaman, who is a captain, and Kailyn Jezewski. Both have been in the wrestling program all four years. Hanaman will compete anywhere from 138 pounds to 152 pounds, while Jezewski is targeted for 145 or 152.

Hanaman was a sectional qualifier as a freshman and Meyers expects him to get back to that level or beyond in his senior season.

“Ethan has been a steady, quality wrestler for us since his freshman year and I expect him to be our leader and win a lot of matches for us this season,” said Meyers.

Three junior squad members are Danny Juan Gama, Logan West and JP Belmonte. Gama is the other team captain and will wrestle at 285.

“This is Danny’s first year at MHS after wrestling at L-P as a freshman,” noted Meyers. “He should be able to get us some wins.”

Phoenix Wilstead and Diego Sandoval are the only two sophomores on the team.

A promising sign for the program

is that there are seven freshmen out for wrestling this season, which could bode well for the future of the program.

“It’s nice to see seven freshmen come out,” added Meyers. “Those are some numbers we can build on.”

Freshman team members include Cadence Thornton, Loralie Hart, Rhett Watson, Angil Serrano, Keith Grim, Lea Turner and Jose Herмосillo. Several of the freshmen are coming in from the Mendota youth wrestling program, so Meyers said they know techniques already, which makes it easier to get them going. He added that Watson is a product of the youth program in Rochelle.

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12/16/2021

## Inexperienced Lady Trojans hoping to grow up quickly

MENDOTA – Inexperience is the word for the Mendota Lady Trojans as they enter the 2021-22 basketball season.

Mendota lost four of five starters from the shortened 11-game season played in February and March where the team posted a 3-8 record, so head coach John Hansen is hoping the squad members adapt quickly to the varsity game. Senior Paige Manning is the lone returning player that saw significant court time last season.

“Aside from Paige, we lack varsity experience this season,” said Hansen. “A mixture of the shortened season and some small injuries kept our juniors and sophomores from gaining the experience we’d normally like. However, many of our BNC opponents played varsity players at the JV level last season, so hopefully that will help us a little in that area.”

Putting points on the board was a problem for the Lady Trojans during the spring season, and Hansen hopes that collectively, the squad members will each take it upon themselves to put the ball in the basket.

“We really don’t have that one girl that we’re counting on to score like when Amellia Bromenschinkel was on the floor,” noted Hansen. “This season, I think everyone sort of knows that they all need to step up in that department and knowing that is helping push them to work at it.”

“While I don’t think we

currently have a true go-to scorer, I also don’t think we have anyone that can’t contribute a few buckets every night. I do believe we won’t see many nights where the leading scorer is the same as the game before.”

In addition to Manning, other seniors on the roster are Natalie Bodmer, Kya Delao, Aliza Salinas and Isabella Tolentino.

“This will definitely be a senior-led program this year,” said Hansen. “The girls have been pretty great so far dating back to summer with commitment and pushing the others.”

Junior squad members include Flor Delao, Naitzy Garcia, Katie Jenner, Emily Stewart and Gracie Zinke. Sophomores who will be on the varsity team are Reanna Brant, Karly Reel and Grace Wasmer.

This year’s team does possess some size, and Hansen said the hope is the Lady Trojans will get some good looks at close range to the basket.

“We’re definitely working our offense around the posts and cutting to the inside,” Hansen explained. “We’ll spend as much time as possible working on post moves, cuts and entry passes, really focusing on making that a priority way to score. Our bigs can also really run the floor so we’re going to really try and push the ball this season.”

Hansen said he expects Manning, Jenner, Tolentino, Reel and the posts to take turns leading the team in scoring most games. He also



Front row, left to right, Isabella Tolentino, Katie Jenner, Gracie Zinke, Karly Reel, Paige Manning, Flor Delao, Emily Stewart, Kya Delao. Back row, head coach John Hansen, Naitzy Garcia, Aliza Salinas, Reanna Brant, Natalie Bodmer, Grace Wasmer, assistant coach Matt Gehm.

added that, despite being a sophomore, he expects Reel to make her way into a leadership role before the season is over.

For every team that has difficulty at one end of the floor, they can make up for that deficiency at the other end, and Hansen is also focusing hard on playing aggressive defense.

“I’m really pushing a no-excuses approach to defense this year,” he said. “Defensive success is really what you make of it and there’s no excuse to not win the rebounds, the 50/50 balls, and locking in and forcing our opponents to make tough shots. And then using that defensive energy and effort to lead to fast-break buckets and not

needing to score 60 every night to win.”

This year’s Lady Trojans will get to do their playing in a new conference as this is the first year for Mendota in the Three Rivers Conference after a decade in the Big Northern Conference.

“I absolutely love the conference move from every angle,” said Hansen. “Shorter trips mean more fans/parents and less 10 p.m. bus rides.”

“The opponents are still tough from year-to-year, but playing more towns of our size that aren’t drawing from the Rockford/suburb area pools gives us a fighter’s chance to at least compete most nights. The more local teams make for more friendly rivalries.”

### Mendota Varsity Girls' Basketball Roster 2021-22

No	Player	Ht	Pos	Yr
1	Katie Jenner	5-3	G	Jr
2	Gracie Zinke	5-3	G	Jr
3	Flor Delao	5-4	G	Jr
4	Kya Delao	5-4	G	Sr
5	Emily Stewart	5-4	G	Jr
10	Aliza Salinas	5-7	F	Sr
11	Natalie Bodmer	5-8	F	Sr
13	Isabella Tolentino	5-4	G	Sr
14	Paige Manning	5-8	F	Sr
15	Grace Wasmer	5-8	F	So
20	Naitzy Garcia	5-8	C	Jr
21	Karly Reel	5-7	G	So
24	Reanna Brant	5-11	C	So

Head coach: John Hansen

Assistant coach: Matt Gehm



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# Despite youth, Trojan cagers return varsity experience

MENDOTA – A lot of players that saw a lot of playing time last season return to the Mendota Trojans as they open the 2021-22 basketball campaign.

The Trojans, under head coach Steve Hanson, only lost one player that saw any significant court time last season, so an experienced group will take the hardwood for Mendota when it begins competition.

“We return a lot of minutes from last year, and the boys are bigger and stronger than a year ago,” said Hanson. “I felt we played our best basketball the last game of the year, so we will try to pick up where we left off. Our goal is to get better every day.”

Ted Landgraf and Emilio Perez are the only two seniors on the squad, and Perez is still recovering from a broken bone in his hand/wrist from the football season. Hanson said the Trojans need physicality from the seniors both on offense and defense.

“Ted will have to guard a bigger guy almost every game and he is going to have to rebound for us and use his athleticism to combat his lack of height,” noted Hanson. “Emilio will have to play with poise and confidence. We need them both to apply defensive pressure on the ball.”

Leading the junior class will be Krew Bond and Rafael Romero, both of whom started as sophomores and saw some varsity playing time as freshmen. Hanson said both of them will have to perform at top level for

the team to succeed.

“Offensively, they are our most versatile players and will be called on to do a lot,” said Hanson. “We are looking for them to mature as players. So far in practice, they both have developed.

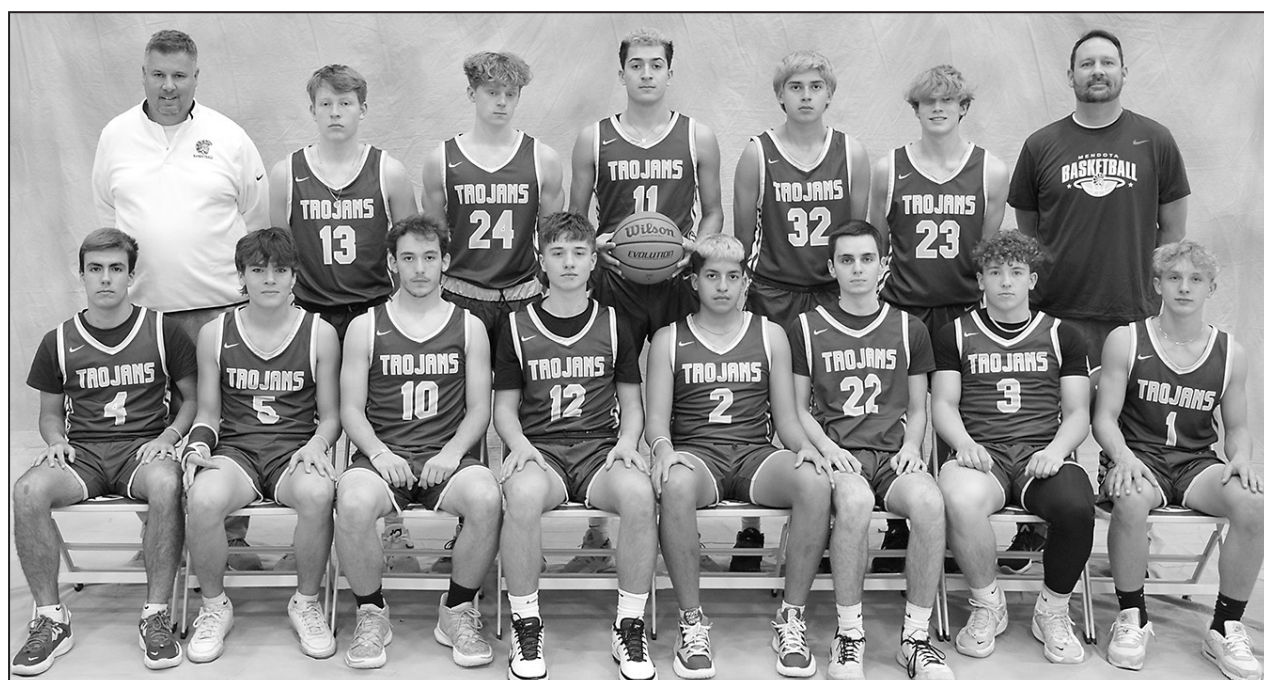
“Bond has added range to his jumper and Romero has been scoring more around the hoop and finishing. Both are good signs for the future. As coaches, we need to remind ourselves they are just juniors even though they have so much varsity experience.”

Other juniors that Hanson is hoping to get contributions from are Isaac Guzman, Ricky Orozco, Ryne Strouss and Dom Stamberger.

“Guzman has offensive skills and needs to play with confidence, and Orozco has developed physically and his success on the soccer field has carried over and given him great confidence,” Hanson stated. “Strouss will be our lunch pail guy and do whatever we ask of him. He will play all positions at some point during the season and he competes, which we love from him.” Hanson said Stambergersatoutthebasketball season as a sophomore and will get a chance to earn a role on the team this year.

A sophomore that Hanson is excited about is Izaiah Nanez, who saw some varsity playing time last year as a freshman.

“He will get his chance again this year,” said Hanson. “He plays with confidence and has the ability to shoot the ball.”



Front row, left to right, Ricky Orozco, Emilio Perez, Ted Landgraf, Dom Stamberger, Isaac Guzman, Ryan Stevenson, Krew Bond, Kaleb Kleckner. Back row, head coach Steve Hanson, Ryne Strouss, Mason Koch, Rafael Romero, Izaiah Nanez, Logan Dewey, assistant coach Steve Wasmer. Not pictured: Jose Rocha.

Hanson said that four other sophomores will likely see some varsity playing time this season. They are Kaleb Kleckner, Mason Koch, Logan Dewey and Ryan Stevenson. Hanson described Kleckner as quick and a player who can pressure the basketball, while Koch and Dewey provide the team with much-needed size and strength. He added that Stevenson has the skills to play at the varsity level.

The boys' basketball team will get its first shot in the Three Rivers Conference, meaning shorter road trips, but still a very competitive conference like the Big Northern.

“We will have to play really well to pick up victories,”

Hanson said. “I expect Princeton, Kewanee and Newman to be very good. St. Bede and Hall will be competitive, as will Bureau Valley.”

A new member of the coaching staff this season is Steve Wasmer, who is a former Trojan player like Hanson.

“He is a great addition to the staff,” commented Hanson. “He has shown a great passion for the game and loves being at practice. He gets the attention of our kids and works well with them.

“He will be a tremendous help in scouting and our defensive plan for each game. It’s been nice to have him around and I look forward to watching him develop as a high school coach.”

## Mendota Varsity Boys' Basketball Roster 2021-22

No	Player	Ht	Pos	Yr
1	Kaleb Kleckner	5-7	G	So
2	Isaac Guzman	5-9	G	Jr
3	Krew Bond	5-8	G	Jr
4	Ricky Orozco	5-7	G	Jr
5	Emilio Perez	5-8	G	Sr
10	Ted Landgraf	5-9	F	Sr
11	Rafael Romero	6-3	F	Jr
12	Dom Stamberger	5-10	F	Jr
13	Ryne Strouss	5-10	F	Jr
22	Ryan Stevenson	5-10	F	So
23	Logan Dewey	6-0	F	So
24	Mason Koch	6-0	F	So
32	Izaiah Nanez	6-0	F	So
44	Jose Rocha	6-5	F	Jr

Head coach: Steve Hanson

Assistant coach: Steve Wasmer



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## Boys' Bowling Roster

### Seniors

Zach Compell  
Jacob Ensor  
Alex Hermosillo  
Andy Rivera  
Logan Young

### Juniors

Clay Buffington

### Sophomores

Landon Bauer  
Trekker Klema

### Freshmen

Benjamin Bresley  
Aiden Kent-Tucker

**Coach:** Kassidi Guerrero



## Boys' Bowling

Front row, left to right, Alex Hermosillo, Landon Bauer. Middle row, coach Kassidi Guerrero, Aiden Kent-Tucker, Benjamin Bresley, Zach Compell. Back row, Jacob Ensor, Clay Buffington, Logan Young. Not pictured: Andy Rivera.

## Girls' Bowling Roster

### Seniors

KayLee Barkman  
Lizzie Bresley  
Olivia Ross

### Juniors

Jamie Dooley  
Isabelle Escatel  
Makayla Lara  
Alex Medina  
Karli Miars  
Talya Schwaegerman

### Freshmen

Lauren Holland

**Coach:** Kassidi Guerrero



## Girls' Bowling

Front row, left to right, Makayla Lara, Alex Medina, Isabelle Escatel. Middle row, coach Kassidi Guerrero, Karli Miars, Jamie Dooley, Lauren Holland. Back row, Olivia Ross, Lizzie Bresley, KayLee Barkman, Talya Schwaegerman.



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## Freshman-Sophomore Girls' Basketball

Front row, left to right, Kaley Siemer, Lily Bokus, Ella Martin, Ella Coss, Noemi Arteaga, Ava Eddy. Back row, coach John Hansen, Crystal Garcia, Adiana Oquendo, Cassie Gonzalez, Madison Sproston, Kennedy Knaff, coach Matt Gehm. Not pictured: head coach Joe Hughes.



## Sophomore Boys' Basketball

Front row, left to right, Josh Figueroa, Bryan Herrera, Owen Aughenbaugh, Ryan Stevenson, Cruz Orozco, Cale Strouss. Back row, head coach Nick Ganz, Logan Dewey, Ian Hiebing, Luca Seibert, Mason Koch, Jace Baird.

### Mendota Freshman-Sophomore Girls' Basketball Roster 2021-22

No	Player	Ht	Pos	Yr
3	Noemi Arteaga	5-3	G	Fr
4	Crystal Garcia	5-5	G	Fr
5	Kaley Siemer	5-3	G	Fr
10	Kennedy Knaff	5-6	F	Fr
13	Ella Martin	5-4	G	Fr
15	Grace Wasmer	5-8	C	So
20	Cassie Gonzalez	5-10	C	Fr
21	Ella Coss	5-6	G	Fr
22	Adiana Oquendo	5-5	G	Fr
22	Lily Bokus	5-4	G	Fr
23	Ava Eddy	5-3	G	Fr
34	Madison Sproston	5-4	G	Fr

Head coach: Joe Hughes

\*\*\*\*\*

### Mendota Sophomore Boys' Basketball Roster 2021-22

No	Player	Ht	Pos	Yr
1	Cale Strouss	5-5	G	So
2	Jace Baird	5-10	G-F	So
3	Bryan Herrera	5-6	G	So
4	Cameron Kelly	5-7	G	Fr
5	Kaleb Kleckner	5-7	G	So
10	Josh Figueroa	5-5	G	So
11	Ryan Stevenson	5-10	G-F	So
13	Luca Seibert	6-3	F	So
15	Logan Dewey	6-0	F	So
33	Ian Hiebing	6-0	F	So
35	Owen Aughenbaugh	5-7	G	So
44	Cruz Orozco	5-7	F	So
45	Mason Koch	6-0	F	So

Head coach: Nick Ganz

\*\*\*\*\*

### Mendota Freshman Boys' Basketball Roster 2021-22

No	Player	Ht	Pos	Yr
1	Domenic Richey	5-8	G-F	Fr
3	Evan McPheeters	5-5	G	Fr
4	Cameron Kelly	5-7	G	Fr
10	Cameron Escatel	5-5	G	Fr
12	Braiden Freeman	5-9	F	Fr
13	Dane Hiner	6-2	F	Fr
24	Dejuan Colon	6-0	F	Fr
30	Conner Chambers	5-10	F	Fr

Head coach: Nick Myers



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## Mendota Winter Sports Schedules

### Girls' Basketball

Dec. 2 – St. Bede – 5:30  
 Dec. 4 – Putnam County – 1:30  
 Dec. 6 – Hall – 5:30  
 Dec. 9 – at Princeton – 5:30  
 Dec. 11 – Streator – 11:45  
 Dec. 14 – at Earlville – 5:30  
 Dec. 18, 20 – at Ottawa Soph Tourney  
 Dec. 22 – Riverdale – 7:00  
 Dec. 27-30 – at Amboy Christmas Tourney  
 Jan. 3 – Sterling Newman – 5:30  
 Jan. 8 – Sterling – 5:30  
 Jan. 10 – Bureau Valley – 5:30  
 Jan. 12 – Kewanee – 5:30  
 Jan. 13 – at Newark – 5:30  
 Jan. 15 – Rock Falls – 1:00  
 Jan. 17 – at Rochelle – 5:30  
 Jan. 20 – at Hall – 5:30  
 Jan. 24 – at St. Bede – 5:30  
 Jan. 27 – at Sterling Newman – 5:30  
 Jan. 29 – at Amboy – 2:00  
 Jan. 31 – Princeton – 5:30  
 Feb. 3 – at Kewanee – 5:30  
 Feb. 8 – at Genoa-Kingston – 5:30

### Freshman Girls' Basketball

Dec. 11 – Streator – 10:30  
 Jan. 15 – Rock Falls – noon  
 Jan. 17 – at Rochelle – 5:30  
 Feb. 8 – at Genoa-Kingston – 4:30

### Boys' Basketball

Dec. 3 – at St. Bede – 5:30  
 Dec. 4-11 – at Hall Colmone Classic (V&S)  
 Dec. 14 – Stillman Valley – 5:30  
 Dec. 17 – Bureau Valley – 5:30  
 Dec. 22 – at Riverdale – 5:30  
 Dec. 27-30 – at Plano Classic (V&S)  
 Jan. 4 – Hall – 5:30  
 Jan. 7 – Princeton – 5:30  
 Jan. 8 – Rochelle – 1:30  
 Jan. 11 – at Sterling Newman – 5:30  
 Jan. 14 – at Rock Falls – 5:30  
 Jan. 15 – at Putnam County – 5:30  
 Jan. 18 – at Bureau Valley – 5:30  
 Jan. 21 – at Kewanee – 5:30  
 Jan. 25 – at Hall  
 Jan. 28 – St. Bede – 5:30  
 Jan. 29 – North Boone – 1:00  
 Feb. 1 – Sterling Newman – 5:30  
 Feb. 4 – at Princeton – 5:30  
 Feb. 8 – Kewanee – 5:30

### Freshman Boys' Basketball

Dec. 3 – at St. Bede – 5:30  
 Dec. 14 – Stillman Valley – 5:30

Dec. 17 – at Oregon Tourney – 4:00  
 Dec. 22 – at Riverdale – 5:30  
 Dec. 27-28 – at L-P Tourney – 10:00  
 Jan. 4 – Hall – 5:30  
 Jan. 7 – Princeton – 5:30  
 Jan. 8 – Rochelle – noon  
 Jan. 11 – at Sterling Newman – 5:30  
 Jan. 14 – at Rock Falls – 4:30  
 Jan. 15 – at Newman Tourney – 9:00  
 Jan. 18 – at Bureau Valley – 5:30  
 Jan. 21 – at Kewanee – 5:30  
 Jan. 25 – at Hall – 5:30  
 Jan. 28 – St. Bede – 5:30  
 Feb. 1 – Sterling Newman – 5:30  
 Feb. 4 – at Princeton – 5:30  
 Feb. 8 – Kewanee – 5:30  
 Feb. 19 – at Princeton Tourney – 9:00

### Boys' Bowling

Dec. 6 – Geneseo – 4:00  
 Dec. 7 – Rockford Lutheran – 4:00  
 Dec. 11 – at L-P Invite – 9:00  
 Jan. 5 – at Streator – 4:00  
 Jan. 6 – at LaSalle-Peru – 4:00  
 Jan. 10 – St. Bede – 4:00  
 Jan. 13 – Dixon – 4:00

### Girls' Bowling

Dec. 4 – at Kewanee Invite – 9:00  
 Dec. 11 – at L-P Invite – 9:00  
 Dec. 14 – at Hall – 4:00  
 Jan. 4 – at Geneseo – 4:00  
 Jan. 6 – at LaSalle-Peru – 4:00  
 Jan. 11 – at Dixon – 4:00  
 Jan. 18 – LaSalle-Peru – 4:00  
 Jan. 20 – at Streator – 4:00  
 Jan. 24 – St. Bede – 4:00  
 Jan. 27 – at Ottawa – 4:00  
 Jan. 29 – at Dixon Invite – 9:00  
 Jan. 31 – Streator – 4:00  
 Feb. 1 – Kewanee – 4:00  
 Feb. 2 – Hall – 4:00  
 Feb. 3 – at Oregon – 4:00

### Wrestling

Dec. 1 – at Plano – 5:30  
 Dec. 4 – at Seneca Invite – 9:00  
 Dec. 10 – at Kewanee – 5:00  
 Dec. 18 – at Stillman Valley Invite – 9:00  
 Jan. 5 – at Rockridge – 5:00  
 Jan. 11 – Newman, Orion, Sherrard – 5:00  
 Jan. 13 – at Erie-Prophetstown – 5:00  
 Jan. 15 – at Kewanee Invite – 9:00  
 Jan. 18 – at Princeton – 5:00  
 Jan. 29 – at Putnam County – 9:00



### Freshman Boys' Basketball

Front row, left to right, Evan McPheeters, Domenic Richey, Braiden Freeman, Cameron Kelly. Back row, coach Nick Ganz, Dejuan Colon, Dane Hiner, Cameron Escatel. Not pictured: head coach Nick Myers.

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