



Trojans looking to take big strides entering new conference

MENDOTA – There is plenty to be excited about for the Mendota Trojans as they prepare to kick off the 2021 football season.

For one thing, they are glad that a full nine-game schedule is looming. Secondly, they are excited to begin their first season in the Three Rivers Conference. And finally, the roster is filled with players that have lots of experience playing varsity football, and that has their confidence level running high ahead of their Aug. 27 season-opener.

“The opportunity to start the school year with a full football schedule has a lot of people excited,” said MHS head coach Keegan Hill, who begins his fourth season on the Trojan sideline. “Plus, we only lost two seniors from the Spring, so that is another reason to look

forward to this season.”

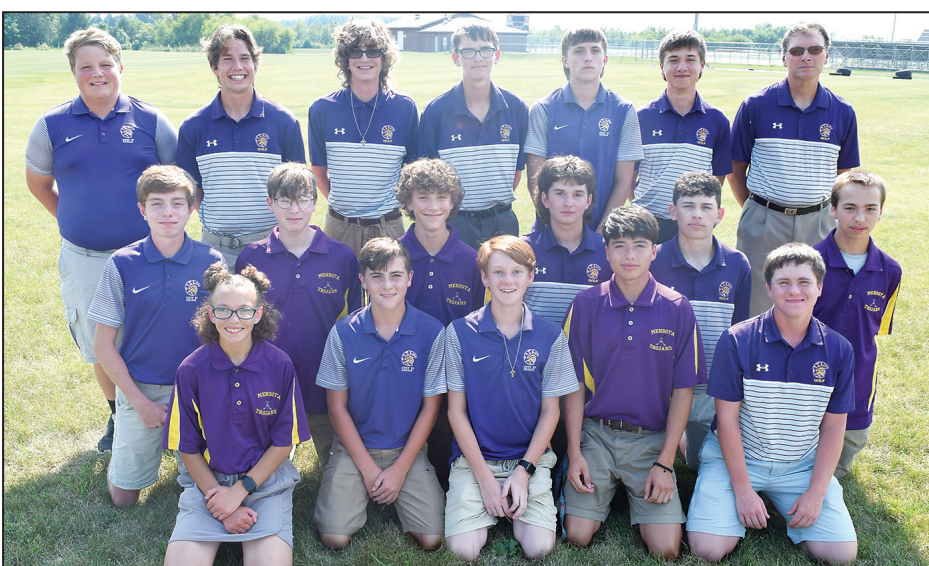
The Trojans were only able to get in three games during the Spring campaign before they were shut down by COVID-related issues, but they showed a peek of what may be to come with a near-comeback win over Oregon and a two-touchdown victory over Rock Falls in which they piled up more than 400 yards of offense. Hill was pleased with what he saw on offense in those three games, and liked the effort shown on defense and special teams.

“We did some positive things on all three sides of the ball during our abbreviated Spring season,” noted Hill. “It was a glimpse of what we are capable of and we expect to build on it with our squad this fall.”

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Front row, left to right, Damien Magallanes, Albert Harris, Christian Tellez, Anthony Childs, Emilio Perez. Second row, Justin Randolph, Uzi Angulo, Abel Rodriguez, Landon Kreiser, Charles Heiting, Ryne Strauss, Ted Landgraf. Third row, Isaac Smith, Kevin Swope, Omar Gonzalez, Parker Guelde, John Gonzalez, Andy Rivera, Daniel Hanson, Sean Figueroa. Fourth row, Jake Saylor, Garret Zinke, Neal Linden, Aaron Avila, Diego Sandoval, Sylvester Lemos, J.P. Belmonte. Back row, coach Sean Kaufman, coach Cesar Arteaga, coach Joel Perez, Jordan Coney, Jose Rocha, head coach Keegan Hill, coach Dan Beck, coach Brock Zinke, coach Steve Villegas.



Front row, left to right, Ella Betz, Cale Strauss, Evan McPheeters, Cayden Escatel, Ethan Hanaman. Middle row, Owen Aughenbaugh, Sam Christmann, Jace Baird, Braden McPheeters, Drake Dennis, Haden Shakespeare. Back row, Jacob Ensor, Logan Brandner, Liam McGann, Clay Buffington, Jack Mikolasek, Dominik Stamberger, coach Brian Blumhorst. Not pictured: head coach David Ross.

Golfers need underclassmen to aid veterans

MENDOTA – The Mendota Trojan golf team has just four seniors on the roster, so coach David Ross is hoping some underclassmen can come through for the team during the 2021 season.

Two of the seniors are Ethan Hanaman and Logan Brandner. Both have gained a lot of varsity experience during their first three years in the program, and Ross is counting on them to keep up their quality play in their senior season.

“We lost a few of our senior leaders from last year and have a very young team, but two senior leaders we do have back are Ethan Hanaman and Logan Brandner,” stated Ross. “Ethan

has been a main contributor to the varsity squad for the last three years, so this is his final run. I expect him to give it everything he has in one last attempt to make a state run, especially after not being able to compete in the regional last year due to COVID.”

Brandner has been a solid player during his time in the Trojan program and Ross is expecting to see improvement out of him. The other two seniors are Liam McGann and Jacob Ensor. Ross said he hopes to see some of the younger guys work into the remaining varsity spots.

“There is a lot of good competition between varsity

four, five and six players, and junior varsity one, two and three players this year,” noted Ross.

Mendota will play its inaugural season as a member of the Three Rivers Conference and Ross is looking forward to battling it out with new schools in 2021.

“We are starting a new conference, so we are looking forward to seeing some new courses and competition,” he said.

Members of the 2021 MHS golf team are:

Seniors – Logan Brandner, Jacob Ensor, Ethan Hanaman, Liam McGann

[See Golf, Page 3](#)

Senior-dominated Spikers hoping to make noise in Three Rivers

MENDOTA – After a disruption last fall and then playing a partial schedule in the spring, Mendota Spiker head volleyball coach Nicci Gibson is ready to tackle a full season as the Spikers assemble for the 2021 campaign.

Despite still being a relative newcomer to the Spiker program, Gibson's nearly life-long association with the sport gives her a comfortable feeling heading into this season.

"I have always felt comfortable with the program and coaching," said Gibson. "I already knew a lot of the seniors in the spring and have been coaching for 24 years.

"When I step on a volleyball court, everything comes naturally to me. I am always passionate, confident and love being around the girls."

Fourteen players comprise the 2021 Spiker roster, and of those, eight are seniors, so Gibson is counting on their veteran presence to guide the team. Five of the seniors were starters at different points of the spring season. They include Lauren Martin, Elly Buettner, Paige Manning, Marah Setchell and Mya Martin.

Gibson said Lauren Martin will play the Libero position this fall after being an outside hitter/defensive specialist as a junior. Buettner will continue in her role as defensive specialist, Manning will be an outside hitter, Setchell will be in the middle hitter position and Mya Martin will continue to contribute from the right-

side hitter spot.

The remaining three seniors on the squad are Kya Delao, Meredith McConville and Bailey Baird. Gibson said Delao will be a setter, while McConville and Baird are outside hitters.

"As far as leadership and quality play, I expect that from all my seniors as well as all my players," she said. "They are a close group of girls and have a lot of fun together. I expect seniors to help mentor, guide and encourage the younger players to work hard during practice, continue to grow as players of the game and set good examples in life."

Junior squad members include Katie Jenner, Karsyn Klatt, Emma Schultz and Naitzy Garcia. Gibson said she expects the juniors to continue to grow as players and continue to adjust to the speed of the varsity game. She said that Jenner will help in the setter's role, while Klatt, Schultz and Garcia are hitters.

Two sophomores – Reanna Brant and Madelyn Becker – round out the roster. Brant saw considerable varsity playing time as a freshman and Gibson is excited to continue to see her improve.

"Brant was a huge part of the offense last season as a starting middle hitter, and she will continue in that position and spot," said Gibson. "I expect big things from her this season as well as continuing to learn the game and grow as a middle hitter with different hits and plays."



Front row, left to right, Kya Delao, Paige Manning, Bailey Baird, Maya Martin, Elly Buettner. Back row, Marah Setchell, Emma Schultz, Meredith McConville, Reanna Brant, Karsyn Klatt, Naitzy Garcia. Not pictured: Lauren Martin, Katie Jenner, coach Nicci Gibson.

Becker will dress for the varsity games and will be the main setter on the sophomore squad.

The Spikers will see a different group of opponents this fall as Mendota enters its first season as a member of the Three Rivers Conference. Old rivalries with Princeton and Hall will be renewed – a couple of programs that Gibson (a Hall graduate) is very familiar with.

"I expect our competition

to always be tough no matter what conference we are in or who we are playing," noted Gibson. "Our new conference has quality programs and coaches with a lot of knowledge of the game.

"I'm sure it will be a battle week in and week out. I would say that our old conference was full of a lot of schools that had girls closer to the city and that played club volleyball. I also like that we are a lot closer geographically to our

competition now."

Another aspect of this season that has Gibson excited and beaming with joy is the fact that her daughter, Taylor, has been hired to be the Spiker sophomore coach and the assistant varsity coach. Taylor played Division I volleyball at Wright State University and was on the first volleyball team at WSU to earn a bid to the NCAA Tournament.

"Talk about a dream come true," said Nicci. "To

share knowledge with your daughter and the game you both love and are passionate about is the best.

"I want to thank Rob Nunn for being such a great coach at the freshman level and all the help and knowledge he contributes to the program.

"I am excited to start another season of volleyball and have fun with this group of girls, and teach them a little bit about life through the game of volleyball."

Spiker Volleyball Rosters

Varsity Volleyball Roster

No	Player	Pos	Yr
1	Lauren Martin	L	Sr
3	Marah Setchell	MB/RH	Sr
4	Kya Delao	S/DS	Sr
5	Elly Buettner	DS	Sr
6	Madelyn Becker	S	So
7	Katie Jenner	S	Jr
8	Bailey Baird	OH	Sr
10	Karsyn Klatt	MB	Jr
11	Emma Schultz	OH/RH	Jr
12	Meredith McConville	OH/RH	Sr
13	Maya Martin	RH	Sr
14	Paige Manning	OH	Sr
21	Naitzy Garcia	MB/RH	Jr
22	Reanna Brant	MB	So

Head coach: Nicci Gibson

Assistant coach: Taylor Gibson

Sophomore Volleyball Roster

No	Player	Yr
1	Lilly Leifheit	So
2	Ana Ramirez	So
3	Kimberly Cedillo	So
4	Madelyn Becker	So
5	Emma Pierce	So
6	Camila Costas	So
7	Estefania Coronel	So
8	Bria Frey	So
14	Grace Wasmer	So
15	Ryleigh Sondgeroth	So
16	Ava Jones	So
18	Kiara Johnson	So

Head coach: Taylor Gibson

Freshman Volleyball Roster

No	Player	Yr
4	Lupita Maldonado	Fr
5	Kaley Siemer	Fr
7	Loralie Hart	Fr
9	Lily Bokus	Fr
10	Ella Martin	Fr
11	Ella Coss	Fr
14	Noemi Arteaga	Fr
15	Claire Hanson	Fr
17	Lissette Sandoval-Rios	Fr
18	Kirby Bond	Fr
22	Ava Eddy	Fr
23	Kennedy Knaff	Fr
24	Breisa Nunez	Fr

Head coach: Robert Nunn



Volleyball Schedule

Aug. 26 – Amboy – 5 p.m.
 Aug. 31 – Bureau Valley – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 1 – at LaSalle-Peru – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 2 – at St. Bede – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 3 – at Oregon Tourney – 4 p.m.
 Sept. 4 – at Oregon Tourney – 8 a.m.
 Sept. 7 – Hall – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 8 – at Rochelle – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 9 – Princeton – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 11 – Mendota Sophomore Tourney – 8 a.m.
 Sept. 14 – at Sterling Newman – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 15 – at Sandwich – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 18 – at Ottawa Freshman Tourney – 9 a.m.
 Sept. 21 – at Bureau Valley – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 23 – Kewanee – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 25 – at Reed-Custer Tourney – 9 a.m.
 Sept. 25 – at Byron Freshman Tourney – 9 a.m.
 Sept. 28 – at Hall – 5 p.m.
 Sept. 30 – St. Bede – 5 p.m.
 Oct. 2 – Mendota Freshman Tourney – 8 a.m.
 Oct. 5 – Sterling Newman – 5 p.m.
 Oct. 7 – at Princeton – 5 p.m.
 Oct. 9 – at Princeton Tourney – 9 a.m.
 Oct. 12 – at Kewanee – 5 p.m.
 Oct. 16 – Mendota Varsity Tourney – 8 a.m.
 Oct. 16 – at Fulton Sophomore Tourney – 9 a.m.
 Oct. 23 – at Sterling Freshman Tourney – 8:30 a.m.



Boys' Soccer Schedule

Aug. 23 – Sandwich – 4:30 p.m.
 Aug. 25 – Somonauk – 4:30 p.m.
 Aug. 27 – at Oregon Tourney – 4:30 p.m.
 Aug. 28 – at Oregon Tourney – 10 a.m.
 Aug. 30 – DePue – 4:30 p.m.
 Sept. 1 – at Riverdale – 4:30 p.m.
 Sept. 4 – Orion – 11 a.m.
 Sept. 7 – at Earlville – 4:30 p.m.
 Sept. 11 – Yorkville – 10 a.m.
 Sept. 13 – at Streator – 4:30 p.m.
 Sept. 14 – Winnebago – 4:30 p.m.
 Sept. 16 – Stillman Valley – 4:30 p.m.
 Sept. 18 – at Genoa-Kingston (JV) – 9 a.m.
 Sept. 23 – at LaSalle-Peru – 4:30 p.m.
 Sept. 25 – Monmouth-Roseville – noon
 Sept. 28 – Dixon – 4:30 p.m.
 Sept. 30 – at Kewanee – 4:30 p.m.
 Oct. 7 – at Rochelle – 4:30 p.m.
 Oct. 9 – at Princeton Tourney (JV) – 9 a.m.

Golf

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Juniors – Clay Buffington, Drake Dennis, Cayden Escatel, Braden McPheeters, Jack Mikolasek, Dominic Stamberger

Sophomores – Owen Aughenbaugh, Jace Baird, Sam Christman, Haden Shakespeare, Cale Strouss

Freshmen – Ella Betz, Evan McPheeters

Golf Schedule

Aug. 26 – Sterling Newman, Orion – 4 p.m.
 Aug. 31 – Riverdale, Erie – 4 p.m.
 Sept. 1 – Rock Falls – 4 p.m.
 Sept. 7 – at Hall (Princeton) – 4 p.m.
 Sept. 8 – at St. Bede (Morrison) – 4 p.m.
 Sept. 9 – at Rochelle (Amboy) – 4 p.m.
 Sept. 14 – at Kewanee (Monmouth-R.) – 4 p.m.
 Sept. 15 – LaSalle-Peru – 4 p.m.
 Sept. 16 – Bureau Valley, Sherrard – 4 p.m.
 Sept. 18 – at Princeton Invite – 9 a.m.
 Sept. 20 – at Seneca (Hall) – 4 p.m.
 Sept. 21 – TRAC Conference Meet at Riverdale – 9 a.m.
 Sept. 23 – at Ottawa – 4 p.m.
 Sept. 25 – Mendota Modified Ryder Cup – 8:30 a.m.
 Sept. 28 – Regional

Varsity Soccer Roster

No	Player	Yr
GK/33	Manny Trejo	Sr
GK/1	Martin Murillo	Jr
3	Rafael Romero	Jr
4	Alex Mandujano	Sr
5	Jose Ruiz	Sr
6	Edgar Arteaga	Jr
7	Jasiel Watson	Jr
8	Isaac Guzman	Jr
9	David Garcia	Jr
10	Yahir Diaz	Sr
11	Eli Arjes	Jr
12	Izaiah Nanez	So
13	Logan Dewey	So
14/19	Luis Garcia	Sr
15	Johnathan Cortez	Jr
16	Ricki Orozco	Jr
17	Josue Arteaga	Sr
18	Kaleb Kleckner	So
19	David Palacios	Sr
20	Iker Landeros	Jr
22	Freddy Mandujano	So
23	Mauricio Martinez	Fr
25	Cameron Kelly	Fr

Head coach: Nick Myers
 Assistant coach: Rey Arteaga

Junior Varsity Soccer Roster

No	Player	Yr
GK/1	Martin Murillo	Jr
3	Brian Herrera	So
GK/4	Eli Arjes	Jr
6	Freddy Mandujano	So
7	Logan Martin	Fr
8/33	Anthony Arteaga	So
12	Izaiah Nanez	So
13	Cameron Escatel	Fr
15	Aiden Kent-Tucker	Fr
16	David Casas	Fr
18	Kaleb Kleckner	So
21	Logan Dewey	So
23	Mauricio Martinez	Fr
27	Samuel Matura	Fr
29	Jonathan Diaz	Fr
30	Diego Raya	Fr

Head coach: Nick Myers
 Assistant coach: Rey Arteaga



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Talented Trojans have great expectations for soccer season

By **HOLLI RAPP**

Sports Correspondent

MENDOTA – Despite a successful COVID-spring season, Mendota High School boys' soccer coach Nick Myers welcomes 24 veteran players who have played in the program due to not having one senior on the roster last spring.

“We bring back eight starters who were either starters or key contributors to the team two years ago that went to sectionals and last year in spring,” said Myers. “We have been a younger team with a great amount of talent that just lacked experience. Now this season we bring a very experienced team to the table to go along with loads of talent.”

In addition to a veteran team, Myers welcomed eight new freshmen who are also very talented and bring depth along with their sophomore class. These newcomers include sophomores Izaiah Nanez, Caleb Kleckner, Logan Dewey and freshmen Cameron Kelly and Logan Martin.

“These guys will all be big contributors off our bench along with juniors Isaac Guzman and Jasiel Watson.

“We have the unique ability to bring starter level subs off our bench this year to help keep our team fresh late in game,” said Myers.

Myers believes that the strengths of the team include a team that is very solid offensively and defensively.

“We have a team mixed with upperclassmen and



Front row, left to right, Johnathan Cortez, Martin Murillo, Manny Trejo, David Palacios. Second row, Kaleb Kleckner, Jose Ruiz, Logan Dewey, Yahir Diaz, Ricki Orozco, Cameron Kelly, Mauricio Martinez. Third row, Edgar Arteaga, Jasiel Watson, Luis Garcia, Alex Mandujano, Isaac Guzman, Josue Arteaga, Freddy Mandujano, David Garcia. Back row, manager Isabella Tolentino, head coach Nick Myers, Eli Arjes, Izaiah Nanez, Rafael Romero, Iker Landeros, assistant coach Rey Arteaga, manager Emily Stewart, manager Flor Delao.

underclassmen that meshes very well together. Everyone gets along and is focused on the main goal of bringing home another regional championship and hopefully add on to that by challenging for a sectional title as well.”

Myers, a MHS soccer alumni, believes that this

team had the best summer offseason commitment he has ever seen at MHS for soccer.

“They have all the tools now to make a deep post-season run. They have experience, talent, team chemistry and all the same goal in mind.”

Myers believe one of

the challenges of this team will be to stay grounded and humble.

“Never take any team for granted throughout the season. The group just needs to go one game at a time and take care of business without looking ahead to the postseason.”

Myers believes that the

team can finish in the top three in the Oregon Tournament early in season, a regional championship and the ultimate goal is winning its first-ever sectional title especially for a team with the exception of the freshmen who has gone 27-6 over the last two seasons.

“This Trojan team is

motivated, a fun team to watch that plays at a fast pace. They never give up in any situation and really play an impressive team style of soccer,” said Myers. “Lots of passing and working together on the field. This team has the ability to go further than any other team MHS has had.”



Front row, left to right, Aliza Salinas-Cervantes, Mia Raya, Crystal Garcia, Anthony Kelson, Alex Hermosillo. Back row, Conner Chambers, Andrew Stamberger, Travis Mumm, Dagen Setchell, coach Kevin Wohrley. Not pictured: Linnea Escatel.



Cross Country Schedule

- Aug. 26 – at Genoa-Kingston (B) – 5:30 p.m.
- Aug. 31 – at Ottawa (B) – 4:30 p.m.
- Sept. 4 – at Oregon – 9 a.m.
- Sept. 7 – at Winnebago – 4:30 p.m.
- Sept. 11 – at Princeton Invite – 9 a.m.
- Sept. 14 – at Ottawa – 4:30 p.m.
- Sept. 18 – at Bureau Valley – 9 a.m.
- Sept. 21 – Amboy, Putnam Co., St. Bede Princeton, Hall – 4 p.m.
- Sept. 25 – at Kewanee – 9:30 a.m.
- Oct. 2 – at Streator – 9 a.m.
- Oct. 6 – Dixon, Oregon, Marquette, Hall, Streator – 4 p.m.
- Oct. 11 – at Amboy Invite – 9 a.m.

Experienced runners to lead cross country team

By **HOLLI RAPP**
Sports correspondent

MENDOTA – Mendota High School cross country coach Kevin Wohrley has three solid returning runners who will look to lead the team in 2021. Seniors Andrew Stamberger and Alex Hermosillo had strong junior seasons and return along with sophomore Dagen Setchell to lead the team that will need to fill the void of graduates Ty Connelly and Trent Stamberger.

“Stamberger and Hermosillo had strong junior seasons and are poised to return where they left off in 2020,” said Wohrley. “Dagen Setchell showed great progress in the second half the season.”

In addition to the three returners, Anthony Kelson and Aliza Salinas are members of the team that will help the team.

“Anthony Kelson looks promising in early practices and his contributions will be noticeable early,” said Wohrley. “Aliza Salinas has the work ethic and talent to grow significantly as the season progresses.”

While Wohrley is still adding members, he believes that the strengths of the team will be that they are led by experienced runners in Stamberger and Hermosillo.

“It is a headstrong group that will push itself in every contest,” said Wohrley.

Goals for the team are very important as they are currently a small group but they will need to stay healthy and steadily improve.

Wohrley added, “We have a nice core, and the emergence of a strong fifth runner will determine the finish of the team.”

The team will host home meets on Sept. 21 and Oct. 6 after starting the season with seven away meets.



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Football

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Senior Ted Landgraf will be back for his third season of starting at the quarterback position. Landgraf has shown steady progress in his first two campaigns as the signal-caller, and Hill expects to see even more improvement in Landgraf's game this fall.

"I think we'll see him keep building confidence in his skills and leading the unit as a whole," said Hill. "His ability to improve ball placement and decision-making will make him a better player, also. Having multiple experienced linemen and skill players back won't hurt either."

There are plenty of candidates on the roster who will be vying for playing time at the skill positions. Seniors include Damien Magallanes (RB-WR), Emilio Perez (WR), Uziel Angulo (RB), John Gonzalez (WR-TE) and Abel Rodriguez (WR-TE). Junior squad members are Ryne Strouss (WR), Isaac Smith (WR), Tony Childs (RB) and Garret Zinke (WR).

Tasked with blocking for the skill players is a senior-laden group with loads of experience down in the trenches. Hill listed seniors Christian Tellez, Sean Figueroa, Parker Guelde, Andy Rivera and Omar Gonzalez as offensive line stalwarts, while juniors Jose Rocha, Jordan Coney, Neal Linden and Landon Kreiser could also see playing time on the line.

On the defensive side

of the ball, Hill has been pleased with the progress of that unit in his first three seasons as the head coach, and expects more of the same this fall.

"We have improved every season on this side of the ball under the leadership of defensive coordinator Brock Zinke," noted Hill. "We return many of the top contributors from last season and our junior group adds more defensive-minded players to the mix. Seeing this group gel and play fast this fall is going to be fun to watch."

Hill added that there are 20-plus players that will be able to contribute in all three phases of the game. "This promotes competition, depth and fresher players, which will help us compete this season," he said.

After a decade of playing in the rugged Big Northern Conference, the Trojans will be entering new territory when they begin their inaugural season in the Three

Rivers Athletic Conference (TRAC). The Three Rivers is comprised of 14 teams and is divided into two seven-team divisions in football – the Mississippi and the Rock. Mendota is in the Mississippi Division along with Bureau Valley, Hall, Kewanee, Princeton, St. Bede and Sterling Newman. Mendota will play the other six teams in its division, and then three crossover games against Erie-Prophetstown, Port Byron Riverdale and Sherrard.

"The fresh outlook on our conference schedule has many people excited for the fall," stated Hill. "Getting back to traditional regional matchups stirs up conversation in the community, on the junior tackle fields and in the hallways.

"Joining a new conference brings unknowns for us, but they haven't played us either, so it works both ways. We look forward to the challenge of playing our best football each week in the TRAC."

Varsity Football Schedule

Aug. 27 – Erie – 7 p.m.
 Sept. 3 – at Port Byron Riverdale – 6:30 p.m.
 Sept. 10 – Bureau Valley – 7 p.m.
 Sept. 17 – at Princeton – 7 p.m.
 Sept. 25 – Hall – 2 p.m.
 Oct. 1 – Sherrard – 7 p.m.
 Oct. 8 – at Kewanee – 7 p.m.
 Oct. 16 – Sterling Newman – 5 p.m.
 Oct. 21 – at St. Bede – 6:30 p.m.

Freshman-Sophomore Football Schedule

Aug. 30 – at Erie – 5:30 p.m.
 Sept. 13 – at Bureau Valley – 5:30 p.m.
 Sept. 20 – Princeton – 5:30 p.m.
 Oct. 4 – at Sherrard – 5:30 p.m.
 Oct. 11 – Kewanee – 5:30 p.m.
 Oct. 18 – at Sterling Newman – 5:30 p.m.
 Oct. 25 – St. Bede – 5:30 p.m.

Varsity Football Roster

No	Player	Ht/Wt	Pos	Yr
1	Damien Magallanes	5-8/180	WR-DB	Sr
2	Isaac Smith	5-11/160	RB-DB	Jr
3	Emilio Perez	5-8/155	WR-DB	Sr
4	Justin Randolph	5-10/155	QB-DB	So
5	Anthony Childs	5-10/160	RB-LB	Jr
6	Daniel Hanson	5-10/140	WR-DB	Jr
7	Ted Landgraf	5-10/165	QB-DB	Sr
9	Garret Zinke	5-8/135	WR-DB	Jr
10	Uzi Angulo	5-10/170	RB-DL	Sr
13	Ryne Strouss	5-10/160	WR-DB	Jr
14	Aaron Avila	5-7/185	WR-DL	Sr
15	Abel Rodriguez	6-0/185	WR-LB	Sr
21	J.P. Belmonte	5-5/165	RB-LB	Jr
23	John Gonzalez	6-0/220	WR-LB	Sr
50	Charles Heiting	5-9/180	OL-LB	Jr
52	Christian Tellez	5-9/200	OL-LB	Sr
54	Neal Linden	5-9/180	OL-LB	Jr
55	Omar Gonzalez	5-11/210	OL-LB	Sr
56	Parker Guelde	6-1/215	OL-DL	Sr
58	Diego Sandoval	5-4/205	OL-DL	So
59	Albert Harris	5-10/235	OL-DL	Jr
60	Sean Figueroa	5-9/225	OL-DL	Sr
61	Kevin Swope	6-2/250	OL-DL	Jr
62	Sylvester Lemos	5-7/220	OL-DL	So
63	Jake Saylor	5-8/235	OL-DL	So
70	Landon Kreiser	5-10/260	OL-DL	Jr
75	Andy Rivera	6-0/255	OL-DL	Sr
76	Jordan Coney	6-1/350	OL-DL	Jr
79	Jose Rocha	6-5/380	OL-DL	Jr

Head coach: Keegan Hill

Assistant coaches: Brock Zinke, Dan Beck, Joel Perez, Steve Villegas, Cesar Arteaga, Sean Kaufman

Freshman-Sophomore Football Roster

No	Player	Ht/Wt	Pos	Yr
1	Domenic Richey	5-10/140	WR-DB	Fr
4	Reyli Sandoval	5-7/150	RB-DB	Fr
12	Braiden Freeman	5-10/155	WR-DB	Fr
13	Rhett Watson	5-7/140	WR-DB	Fr
34/56	Damian Medina	5-11/240	OL-LB	Fr
40	Justin Randolph	5-10/155	QB-DB	So
45	Keith Grim	5-10/180	RB-LB	Fr
53	Joseph Gomez	5-8/225	OL-LB	Fr
55	Diego Sandoval	5-4/205	OL-DL	So
57	Sylvester Lemos	5-8/220	OL-DL	So
59	Gabriel Vallejo	6-0/280	OL-DL	Fr
60	Luis Ayala	5-10/205	OL-DL	Fr
63	Jake Saylor	5-8/235	OL-DL	So
77	Angil Serrano	5-9/310	OL-DL	Fr
82	Dane Hiner	6-2/200	TE-LB	Fr

Head coach: Dan Beck

Assistant coaches: Joel Perez, Cesar Arteaga, Sean Kaufman



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Junior Varsity Soccer

Front row, left to right, Cameron Escatel, Eli Arjes, Martin Murillo, Kaleb Kleckner, Cameron Kelly. Second row, Mauricio Martinez, Logan Martin, Diego Raya, Brian Herrera, Aiden Kent-Tucker, Samuel Matura. Third row, Freddy Mandujano, Logan Dewey, Nathan Ruiz, Manthony Arteaga, David Casan. Back row, head coach Nick Myers, manager Isabella Tolentino, Izaiah Nanez, manager Flor Delao, manager Emily Stewart, assistant coach Rey Arteaga.



Freshman-Sophomore Football

Front row, left to right, Reyli Sandoval, Jake Saylor, Joseph Gomez, Sylvester Lemos, Rhett Watson, Diego Sandoval. Middle row, Angil Serrano, Luis Ayala, Justin Randolph, Domenic Richey, Braiden Freeman, Keith Grim. Back row, coach Joel Perez, head coach Dan Beck, Dane Hiner, Gabriel Vallejo, Damien Medina, coach Cesar Arteaga, coach Sean Kaufman.



Cheerleaders

Front row, left to right, Abby Kunz, Korinne Miars, Jayla Morris, Dessa Komitas, Alivia Avila. Middle row, Kendall Biers, Alayna Nosalik, Cadence Thornton, Allison Stewart, Sophia Pappas, Nevaeh Orozco. Back row, coach Halley Hoffman, Alessandra Enriquez, Riley Cocanour, Kelsey Castro, Alexa Valencia. Not pictured: Kendra Frey.



Sophomore Volleyball

Front row, left to right, Estefania Coronel, Ryleigh Sondgeroth, Lilly Leifheit, Ava Jones, Ana Ramirez. Back row, Madelyn Becker, Emma Pierce, Grace Wasmer, Kiara Johnson, Bria Frey, Camila Costas. Not pictured: Kimberly Cedillo. Not pictured: coach Taylor Gibson.



Freshman-Sophomore Tennis

Front row, left to right, Karina Coronel, Ashley Hermosillo, Lauren Holland, Jackie Flores, Mariah Figueroa. Back row, Ava Beetz, Natalia Salinas, Cassie Gonzalez, Lidia Hernandez, Payton Diaz, coach Tom Corrigan.



Freshman Volleyball

Front row, left to right, Kaley Siemer, Ava Eddy, Lily Bokus, Noemi Arteaga, Lupita Maldonado, Lissette Sandoval-Rios. Back row, Claire Hanson, Lorralie Hart, Kirby Bond, Breisa Nunez, Kennedy Knaff, Ella Coss, Ella Martin. Not pictured: coach Robert Nunn.



Front row, left to right, Makayla Lara, Isabelle Escatel, Angela Sandoval, Zoe Finley, Karli Miars, Alex Medina. Back row, Lizzie Bresley, KayLee Barkman, Talya Schwaegerman, Alex Stremlau, Alexis Finley, Jackie Cortez, coach Shawn LeRette.

Tennis team enters season with confidence

By **HOLLI RAPP**
Sports Correspondent

MENDOTA – Mendota High School girls' tennis coach Shawn LeRette lost four veteran players including graduates Mary DeFore, Natalie Orozco, Madison Pappas along with Natalie Bodmer to an injury, but brings back returning four-year players who are excellent leaders.

The returnees include Alex Stremlau, Kaylee Barkman, Zoe Finley, Lizzie Bresley and Jackie Cortez.

According to LeRette they bring leadership. "This group believes in leading by example," said LeRette. "They are not afraid to show younger players this is how we do it here. They are all four-year players so they have the experience to back it up."

In addition to the veteran teachers, they have two key newcomers who will add to the team including Talya Schwaegerman and Alexis Finley.

Strengths of this year's team include aggressiveness and confidence.

"This group tends to want to get after it more than some of my previous groups," said

LeRette. "They like to play and make shots. They are not afraid to take chances and hit the shot down the line. We (coaches) are trying to reign in some of that aggressiveness because we still want to make the prudent play at times."

A weakness of the team would be the lack of playing on this level especially with not playing many matches on the varsity level.

"They were not counted on to play much last year at tournaments and high levels," said LeRette. "This

year, they are on a mission to prove to me that was a mistake. They love to prove their coach wrong."

LeRette's main expectation is a team that will be to be competitive and to play competitive matches with everyone in our area.

"The girls are fun and are competitive and like to play. They will leave everything they have out on that court. I never have to doubt that," said LeRette who once again will be assisted by veteran coach Tom Corrigan.

Girls' Tennis Schedule

- Aug. 26 – LaSalle-Peru, St. Bede – 4 p.m.
- Aug. 28 – at Sterling Newman Tourney – 9 a.m.
- Aug. 31 – Kewanee – 4:30 p.m.
- Sept. 2 – at Sterling – 4:30 p.m.
- Sept. 4 – at Coal City Tourney – 8 a.m.
- Sept. 7 – at Sterling Newman – 4 p.m.
- Sept. 9 – at Princeton – 4:30 p.m.
- Sept. 13 – Coal City – 4:30 p.m.
- Sept. 14 – Dixon – 4 p.m.
- Sept. 15 – Rockford Christian – 4 p.m.
- Sept. 18 – at Sterling Invite – 9 a.m.
- Sept. 21 – Rockford Lutheran – 4 p.m.
- Sept. 23 – at Ottawa – 4 p.m.
- Sept. 25 – at L-P Invite – 8:30 a.m.
- Sept. 27 – Rochelle – 4 p.m.
- Sept. 30 – Morris – 4 p.m.
- Oct. 4 – at Geneseo – 4 p.m.
- Oct. 5 – at Streator – 4:30 p.m.
- Oct. 9 – Mendota Tourney – 8 a.m.

GO...FIGHT...WIN!

**MENDOTA
TROJANS & SPIKERS**



We would like to thank the coaches, parents and athletes for their dedication and hard work.

Eureka Savings Bank is proud to back today's athletes and future leaders.

HAVE A GREAT YEAR!

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