



2021
WINTER SPORTS
PREVIEW



Brookings boys aiming for rebound season

The Brookings boys' basketball team is hoping to turn the page after last season when they finished the year 3-17.

In his 24th year at Brookings and 15th season as head coach, Travis Engebretson says that for his team to compete in Class AA this season, it revolves around perimeter play.

"The Bobcats will have to rely on a very perimeter-oriented team and try to control the tempo by playing fast," Engebretson said. "We will have to work hard on defense and control the boards."

Brookings returns an undersized team that, when they do work the ball into the paint, will have to put forth the effort to score baskets.

"The post play will have to work hard to score when given the opportunity," Engebretson added. "Look for the Bobcats to rely on different schemes to make up for their lack of size."

Brookings returns a pair of starters – Zach Moe and Brock Longville – to a lineup which has some, but not significant varsity experience.

Moe averaged 4.7 points per game along with 3.1 rebounds per game. "Zach is a great athlete as has the ability to get to the hoop," Engebretson said of Moe. "He started all 20 games for the Bobcats and his leadership will be important this season. He is a good perimeter shooter and will be able to use his size and quickness to be a solid defender."

Longville, a 6'3" post player, averaged 3.6 points per game to go with 5.5 rebounds per contest. After a strong season on the gridiron, Longville is transitioning to the hard-



Troy Maroney/mugsbymaroney.com

Front Row (Left to Right): Student manager Emily Schulte, student manager Livy Smart, student manager Jaden Cofell. **Middle Row (Left to Right):** Zach Moe, Trey Svennes, Jake Ammann, Sam Hardin, Matt Weelborg, Jack Even, Jett Leddy, Brock Longville. **Back Row (Left to Right):** Head coach Travis Engebretson, assistant coach Jarrod Huntimer, Drew Ton, Caleb Jorgensen, Sam Conrad, Nathan Lease, Jackson Hoffmann, Jaxton Eck, Ryan Bauman, Tim Melby, assistant coach Joe Frederiksen, assistant coach Mark Kreie. Not pictured: Student manager Carrigan Covrig.

wood. "Brock is athletic for someone of his size and the Bobcats will count on him to anchor the interior defense and rebound," Engebretson said.

Jack Even, Sam Hardin, Jett Leddy, Jake Ammann, Matt Weelborg, and Trey Svennes will all see varsity minutes this season, as well.

Engebretson says scoring points might be a struggle at times as they return a lineup lacking a major offensive

weapon.

"The Bobcats may have trouble scoring as they return only one proven scorer," Engebretson said. "Brookings will need to focus on playing team defense and finishing each possession with a rebound."

Brookings won the conference title in 2017, but prior to that season, 1988 was the last time the Bobcats were ESD champions.

Engebretson says that in the ESD, Aberdeen Central,

Brandon Valley, and Mitchell are the teams to beat.

Statewide, Sioux Falls Lincoln and O'Gorman look to be tough outs, as well.

"Class AA will be very competitive with a lot of teams returning players from successful teams," Engebretson added.

Consistency amongst the Bobcats and how their opponents adjust to different defensive looks will determine what kind of season Brookings

will have.

"The Bobcats will have to play team basketball and find consistent scoring from certain individuals, and defensively, we will have to change up schemes to keep teams off balance and must focus on rebounding," Engebretson concluded.

Brookings opens their season this Friday at Watertown. The Bobcats first home game is a week later, Dec. 17 against Mitchell.

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Bobcat girls looking for improvement

The Bobcat girls' basketball team is hungry to improve this season after finishing last year with a 2-18 record.

Entering his fourth season at the helm, head coach Mitch McLagan says last year was tough with lots of ups and downs.

"We were extremely lucky to be able to coach the group of athletes we had," McLagan said. "They came to work every day, which is not always easy when wins are tough to come by. Our girls showed up every day to get better, and never quit and we kept getting better."

One of the two wins the Bobcats had last season was a big one, knocking off Aberdeen Central, South Dakota's top-ranked team.

"The highlight of our season was beating the No. 1 team in the state, Aberdeen Central, at home," McLagan said. "These types of wins do not come if our athletes don't have a growth mindset."

6'5" senior post Ainsley Shelsta scored 21 points and ripped down 15 rebounds in the win against the Golden Eagles, and she along with Landree Wilson will be the tworeturning starters the Bobcats will rely on this season.

Shelsta was named to the ESD All-Conference team, averaging a double-double per game with 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Wilson added 10 points and five rebounds per game last season.

Brookings will be without Allie Clark this season after the senior suffered a knee injury during the volleyball season.

Unfortunately, Clark is not the only early-season casualty for the Bobcats.

"We have been hit with the injury bug early on in the season," McLagan said. "We have a few



Troy Maroney/mugsbymaroney.com

Top Row (Left to Right): Coach Zach Thomas, Coach Ross Peterson, McKenzie Cunningham, Jaden Devine, Sophia Hamrlich, Sofia Dvergssten, Grace Kuchlong, Landree Wilson, Gracey Sheridan, Logan Smidt, Coach Mandi Smidt, Head Coach Mitch McLagan. **Bottom Row (Left to Right):** Allie Clark, Ashton Austreim, Claire Burns, Ainsley Shelsta, Ella Bisgard, Bailey Waterman, Paige Mahlke, Brooklyn McGuire

seniors that are nursing some injuries and have a couple seniors that we have lost for the season due to injury."

Clark was to be the returning point guard, but that role will shift to others and will be an important role to fill to find success.

"It is going to be extremely important for us to find good point guard play," McLagan added. A weakness for us at the beginning of the season is going to be on the offensive end. We have been a little stagnant in that facet of the game. We have relied

on Clark at the point guard position since she was a sophomore and navigating the beginning of the season without her is going to be difficult."

There is hope on the horizon, however, as younger players step into the injury-vacated role.

"We have had some young girls step up and compete at that position," McLagan said. "They continue to get better every day, but it's also a very difficult position."

Defense will be what the Bobcats rely on to find success.

"We will hang our hat on the defensive end of the ball," McLagan said. "Our girls have been locked in on defense and I am excited for them to execute, and we have the athletes and size to compete with anybody on the defensive end."

Still, McLagan is anxious to get the year underway.

"We are extremely excited to get the year kicked off," said the head coach. "We have a lot of question marks, and that's what makes it all so exciting. A big goal for us is to keep games


tight and give ourselves a chance in the fourth quarter. I am extremely excited to work with this group."

McLagan puts a pair of Sioux Falls teams in his top three – Washington, O'Gorman – with Rapid City Stevens and Brandon Valley also having strong squads.

In the ESD, in addition to the Lynx, Harrisburg and Huron look to be atop the conference.

The Bobcats open the season Friday, hosting the Watertown Arrows inside Bob Jostad Gymnasium.

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High-powered Rangers look for repeat



Troy Maroney/mugsbymaroney.com

Back Row (Left to Right): Joseph Wu, Isaac Schulte, Cooper Deatherage, Jack Merritt, Owen Schneider, Luke Honkomp, Jacob Kahle, Andrew Sternhagen, Koen Beinhorn, Spencer Heflin, Jacob Law, Chase Karch. **Third Row (Left to Right):** Coach Donovan Peterson, Jordan Raatz, Ren Jacobsen, Kole Kalber, Aidan Austreim, Zach Struck, Breck Hirrschoff, Isaac Dobesh, David Brink, Gage Peterson, Carson Odde, Coach Aaron Carsrud, Coach Tommy Houglund. **Second Row (Left to Right):** Connor Strand, Jackson Law, Brody Powers, Ashton Witte, Head Coach Justin Kirchhevel, Logan Bortnem, Coach Josh Kruse, Talon Richter, Jacob Drew, Geoffrey Svobodny, Trenton Pederson. **Front Row (Left to Right):** Nathan Brecher, Kade Brecher, Egan Jensen.

After a 21-1-1 league record, league title, and state championship, this year's Brookings Rangers boys team is looking to repeat the success of last season.

Sixth-year head coach and Penn State hockey alum Justin Kirchhevel says his team again will be in the running for a state championship.

"We will look to defend our championship from last season as one of the top teams in the SDAHA (South Dakota Amateur Hockey Association), even though there will be several challenging teams throughout the state,"

Kirchhevel said.

The Rangers finished 31-5 overall including tournament play and led the league in all major statistical categories. After winning the state tournament the team earned an invitation to Nationals where Brookings advanced through pool play before bowing out in the national quarterfinals.

Brookings lost a pair of all-state players in Max Kjelden and Ike Johnson, along with key contributors in Alec Rice, Jamison Honkomp, and Wes Koenig, but 14 of 20 players return from last year's

team.

Kade Brecher earned first team all-state status as goalie.

Ashton Witte, Breck Hirrschoff, and Logan Bortnem will be who to look for as offensive leaders, but every player in the Rangers' first nine forwards will contribute.

Defensively, Jacob Drew and Trenton Pederson will see significant time as the first line of defense in front of Brecher.

Kirchhevel says offense and goalie play will be what propels his team to success.

"Our strength will be our depth on offense," Kirchhevel said. "We

will try to impose our will on teams with a balanced attack and structured play." Our goalie depth will be a key factor in our success throughout the season."

Despite returning 14 players from last year, the Rangers will be young defensively.

"Our weakness is our youth at defense as we lost several key players on the back end from last year," Kirchhevel added.

Still, Rangers games will be worth the price of admission this season.

"Overall this will be a fun team to watch all year as we now have

had several of our key players at this level for three years," Kirchhevel said. "We are excited to see the development from year to year and how our team can build on last year's success. These guys understand that last year is over and they are going to get everybody's best game night in and night out. Expectations are high, and they have been putting in the work on and off the ice to prepare.

Brookings is 7-0 to start the year and will take part in a Junior Gold A tournament this weekend in Minnetonka, Minn.

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Young Rangers optimistic they'll succeed

A young Rangers girls' varsity team is looking to make some noise in South Dakota this season.

Head coach JaColby Anderson in his 11th year of coaching but first as Brookings girls coach, says that looking to a teams' seniors for leadership isn't an option this season for his group.

"We graduated six seniors last year and have zero seniors in the program now," Anderson said. "We will rely on leadership to come from our junior class."

While a young team will take the ice this season, it's a group with an optimistic path to success.

"The youth of our program has a bright future," Anderson added. "Our team understands we are going to have to work and strive to get better every day to compete at a high level this season. With a mixture of younger and older girls, we have to find a way to come together by trusting the process and continuing to grow as the season wears on."

Brookings finished with third in league play last year with a 10-5-1 league mark and finished fourth at state and has several talented players back this year.

Savannah Barber was named team captain this season. She was a second-team all-state honoree last year and will be participating with the Tier 1 Women's Blackbears Summer Showcase team. She is also a member of Team South Dakota's U19 team and was named captain of the U16 Team South Dakota team that finished third at Nationals.

Assistant captains Jady Kuehl and Kiran Vugteveen also return; Vugteveen earned second-team all-state selection and is on Team South Dakota's U19 roster.

Defenseman Taylor Hokenson was also on the U16 team that finished third at Nationals.

Looking across the state, Anderson ranks Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, and Mitchell as the teams to look out for. Aberdeen is the defending state champions with the Flyers the runners-up.

Anderson says that with strong leadership despite no seniors, as well as who returns on offense, that will hopefully make up for the lack of experience from the younger girls on the varsity team.

"We can be a scary team given



Troy Maroney/mugsbymaroney.com

Back row (Left to Right): Coach Austin Koenig, Head Coach JaColby Anderson, Ava Kahle, Maya Edmison, Miyah Foerster, Sawyer Triplett, Kiran Vugteveen, Jady Kuehl, Graciana Peterson, Jayda Geraets, Maggie Dunbar, Manager Ella Park, Coach Alex Purdy. **Middle Row (Left to Right):** Kinzey Grendler, Payton Triplett, Taryn Richter, Anna Rasmussen, Julissa Peterson, Savannah Barber, Taylor Hokenson, Shauna Pederson, Raya Hesser. **Front Row (Left to Right):** Rorii Quam, Aletha Baker.

we have younger girls with talent and mixing it in with the upper-classmen who have some varsity experience," Anderson said.

"Teams across the state should not overlook us."

The Rangers hold a 4-2 mark in league games thus far. Brookings

has their next four games on the road before returning to the Larson Ice Center for a home game on New Year's Day.



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Hanson takes the helm of Bobcat wrestling

The Bobcat wrestlers have a new person to call head coach this season, but Matt Hanson is by no means unfamiliar to the program.

An assistant for many years under Scott Miller, Hanson inherits a team that finished ninth in Class A last season despite giving up multiple weight classes as forfeits throughout the season due to open weight classes and injuries.

There's plenty of experience in the wrestling room at Brookings High School, Hanson says.

"We return 10 wrestlers with varsity experience," Hanson said. "However, our team will need to continue to develop and improve each week to be ready for the postseason."

Three seniors will wear a Bobcat singlet this season - Jaxon Bowes, Gavin Klinkhammer, and Luke Rasmussen.

Rasmussen is the defending state champion at 195 pounds, but the Jackrabbit commit will be wrestling up a class this season at 220 pounds.

Bowes missed his junior season due to injury, but returns this season as the Bobcats' 182-pounder.

Klinkhammer will wrestle at 160 pounds this season after missing most of last year. He finished sixth at the Brookings Les Tlustos Invite but did not wrestle again after that weekend.

Nolan Miles finished fifth at state last season as a freshman 106-pounder, and has moved up three weight classes to 126 pounds for his sophomore season.

Tyson Brandt at 170 pounds will look to improve on his eighth place finish in 2019. The junior was not able to compete at the state tournament last year due to injury.

James Olson finished seventh at 220 pounds last year and the junior will look to better that finish this season.

Spencer Christie and Gabe Stern also qualified for the state tournament last year but did not place.

Additionally, Joey Fitzpatrick, Israel Caldron, and Will Bauer return as starters looking to make their way to state.

Hanson lists Brandon Valley, Pierre, and Harrisburg as the teams to beat, not only in the conference but in the state, as well.

Strong leadership will lead



Aaron Jorenby/Register

Front Row (Left to Right): Harrison Wakeman, Luke DeRynck, Tate Helmbolt, Riley Weisbeck, Maya Erickson, Ava Stanley, Aidan Owens. **Middle Row (Left to Right):** Braeden Stadler, Joey Fitzpatrick, Spencer Christie, Mason Mathis, Nolan Miles, Ahmed Sarah, Cierra Strand, Saige Hinricher, Maizy Mathis, Tyson Brandt. **Back Row (Left to Right):** Dylan Reynolds, Gabe Stern, Daniel Klug, Israel Caldron, Luke Rasmussen, James Olson, Caleb Loehr, Jaxon Bowes, Cole Novotny.

this team far, Hanson says.

"I am pleased with the leadership of this team; they are wanting to work hard," Hanson said. "Our team has good numbers

and have added a number of girls this year to our girls team."

Rasmussen and Miles won season-opening titles at the Dan Unrah tournament in Wahpeton,

with seven others finishing in the top six.

The Bobcats are next in action at Watertown on Dec. 16 in a dual with the Arrows.

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Brookings gymnastics looking to replace six seniors



Kate Heiberger Photography

Back Row (Left to Right): Coach Melissa Hagedorn, Coach Jim Hazelton, Tayla Dobrenski, Jessica Fourney, Sydney Grendler, Clover Naughton, Coach Rachele Engbrecht. **Middle Row (Left to Right):** Manager Brooklyn Ballis, Brynn Flemming, Ava Petterson, Kennedy Ronning, Luci Siemonsma, Mischa Janssen, Manager Katie Cunningham, Manager Abby Heier. **Front Row (Left to Right):** Alayna Love, Nevaeh Strohfus, Amber Brockberg, Layla Erickson, Cloë Barber, Lexi Norgaard, Nayree Munoz. Not Pictured: Manager Delilah Fuls.

The Brookings gymnasts look to find the winning formula this season but having to replace six seniors will be difficult.

Sydney Grendler, Tayla Dobrenski, and Layla Erickson are returning letter-winners for the Bobcats and will look to lead the team this sea-

son. Grendler is the only senior the Bobcats have on the team this season.

Brookings has four juniors: Jessica Fourney, Tayla Dobrenski, Cloë Barber, and Abby Heier.

They also have four sophomores: Delilah Fuls, Mischa Janssen, Amber Brockberg, and

Kaitlyn Cunningham.

Clover Naughton and Lexi Norgaard are the two freshmen on the roster.

Coach Engbrecht has eight eighth-graders this season: Erickson, Brooklyn Ballis, Brynn Flemming, Kennedy Ronning, Nevaeh Strohfus, Alayna Love,

Luci Siemonsma, and Ava Petterson.

Nayree Munoz is the lone seventh-grader.

In their most recent event, Brookings placed fourth at the Lolly Forseth Invitational on Dec. 4.

Bobcat fans will have two more opportunities to watch Brookings at

home this season. The Patty Jorgenson Invitational will be held at Brookings High School on Jan. 8, 2022, and Brookings will host a triangular on Jan. 27, 2022.

The ESD meet, as well as the state tournament, will be held at the Corn Palace in Mitchell Feb. 11-12, 2022.



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Register file photos

LEFT: Brookings' Zach Moe drives against an Aberdeen Central defender during the Bobcats' game against the Golden Eagles on Dec. 12, 2020. **TOP MIDDLE:** Brookings' Kiran Vugteveen fires a shot during the Rangers' game against Mitchell on Feb. 6, 2021. **BOTTOM MIDDLE:** Brookings' Luke Rasmussen takes down an Aberdeen Central opponent during the Bobcats' dual against the Golden Eagles on Feb. 2, 2021. **RIGHT:** Brookings' Ainsley Shelsta goes up for a lay-up during the Bobcats' game against Harrisburg on Dec. 15, 2020.



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LEFT: The Brookings Rangers celebrate after winning the 2020-21 state championship against Rushmore on Mar. 14, 2021. Brookings won the game 5-0. RIGHT: Brookings' Tayla Dobrenski competes on the uneven bars during the Bobcats' triangular on Jan. 25, 2021.

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Sioux Valley Boys Basketball



Back Row (Left to Right): Hudsyn Ruesink, Damian Damian Danzeisen, Carson Christopherson, Parker Puetz, Alec Squires, Hayden Ruesink, Layson Lucas, Connor Gross, Oliver Vincent, Kyler Bezdichek, Dylon Milton. **Front Row (Left to Right):** Dylan McDowell, Jameson Degen, Matthew Field, Maverick Nelson, Boden Schiller, Jace Christensen, Brock Christopherson, Cameron Thomas, Jakob Guthmiller, Aden Mangan, Donovan Rose, Levi Loban. **Not Pictured:** Patrick Carey

Head Coach: Bill Vincent (25th season, 411-133)

Assistant Coaches: Buster Vincent (5th season)

2020-21 Recap: 23-2 last season. Big East Champs/LCC Champs/State A Runner-up (Split with Dakota Valley, split with SFC, defeated Wagner in So Dak 16, Chamberlain at State, Dakota Valley in semifinals).

Key athletes lost: : Kelton Vincent, Jaxton Schiller and Colby Gatzke.

Key returning athletes: Parker Puetz, an All-Confer-

ence performer last season wh averaged 10 points and 6.5 rebounds. Oliver Vincent, an All-State and Player of the Year finalist last year. Averaged 21 points per game last season. Hayden Ruesink, an All-Conference performer who averaged 11 points and eight rebounds last year.

Potential starters: Parker Puetz 6'4 senior wing, Oliver Vincent 6'2 junior guard, Hayden Ruesink 6'5 senior post, Carson Christopher-

son 6'1 senior forward, Da-

mian Danzeisen 6'1 senior guard, Patrick Carey 5'11 junior guard, Alec Squires 6'10 sophomore post.

Newcomers: A host of Juniors and Sophomores are coming off of a very competitive JV season and we expect to be capable of competing at a high level and filling our remaining roster spots.

Team 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.

Team weaknesses: We will need to develop our depth.

Coach's 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.

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Sioux Valley Girls Basketball



Back Row (Left to Right): Caitlyn Craddock, Savana Guthmiller, Jada Knutson, Kendra Hiltunen, Ashley Bjerke, Kaedyn Sapp, Keyra Kruse, Savannah Rawden, Talya Vincent
Front Row: Laura Duncan, Isabelle Bloker, Reagan Johnson, Julia Schneider, Laryn Stevens, Sydney Hesby, Hannah Duncan

Head Coach: Jamie Granum (5th year)

Assistant Coaches: Brooke Mathern

2020-21 Recap: 12-10 record, lost to Hamlin in second round of regions.

Key athletes lost: Abbie Schneider

Key returning athletes: Senior Reagan Johnson, who averaged 12 points, eight rebounds and two steals per game last season.

Freshman Isabelle Bloker, who averaged 14 points per game last season as an eighth grader.

Keyra Kruse, a freshman who led the junior varsity in points and rebounds last season.

Junior guards Julia Schneider and Ashley Bjerke join Johnson and Bloker as the four returning starters.

Team strengths: Experience. Return four starters.

Coach's comments: We head into the 2021/2022 season with four returning starters. We return a nice core of young, more experienced girls than in

the past. We have a fun team to be around. They practice really hard and enjoy playing together.

Reagan Johnson is extremely athletic who impacts the game on both ends of the floor.

Julia Schneider is in her 4th year as our starting point guard, and she has put a lot of time in on improving this off-season.

Ashley Bjerke had a great summer and her length really plays on the basketball court.

Isabelle Bloker led our

team in scoring as an 8th grader and can really space the floor with her shooting ability.

Laryn Stevens, Keyra Kruse, Jada Knutson, Kendra Hiltunen and Sydney Hesby all got valuable junior varsity minutes last year and continued to develop this summer.

I'm excited to see this team come together. Our region is really top heavy with 2 of the top girl's teams in the state in it.

Sioux Valley Wrestling

Head Coach: Andy Miller (SDSU graduate, 4th season)

Assistant Coaches: Glenn Sheets, Avery Gilchrist, Dean Lavrack

2020-21 Recap: The Cossacks return one state place-winner, four state-qualifiers, and as a team they won the Cossack Avalance tournament. Sioux Valley finished with a 9-12 record in duals last season.

Key athletes lost: Seth Heidenriech, Connor Logan

Key returning athletes: Russell Sheets, senior. Seventh-place finisher at the state tournament in 2021; Joe Hornick, senior. Two-time state-qualifying wrestler; Skylar Trygstad, sophomore. State qualifier in 2021.

Team strengths: "Our senior captains are truly locked in and striving to end their high school careers on their terms," Miller said. "They are also great leaders and mentors to the youth on the team. Our youth is both a strength and weakness. We have seven eighth-graders that are working hard and gaining experience everything they step on the mat. They have a lot to learn but are learning it quickly."

Coach's comments: "We have state tournament experience and look to not only see our seniors give everything they can to return, but I also think we have the opportunity to see some first time state qualifiers come from this team this year," Miller said. "This is a young team that is working hard to improve and achieve their goals. We are able to fill the majority of the weights, which is something we have struggled with the past few years as the wrestlers are spreading out amongst the weight classes instead of being stacked up in two or three classes."



Tina Sheets photo

Front row (L-R): Joe Hornick, Julia Steffensen, Russell Sheets. Second row (L-R): Mitchell Guthmiller, Dubhlainn Vermeulen, Zane Miller. Third row (L-R): Tate Steffensen, Summer Guthmiller. Fourth row (L-R): Skylar Trygstad, Wyatt Hardt. Back row (L-R): Zach Shultz, Owen Vandeweerd, Andrew Gunderson.

Deubrook Area Boys Basketball



Front Row (Left to Right): John Jorenby, Sutton Fritz, Andrew Trooien, Nick Bowne, Dominic Lacek, Justin Moberg, Parker Crooks, Mason Shaw. **Back Row (Left to Right):** Mgr. Jackson Timmons, Aast. Coach Cade Falor, Gunnar Trooien, Richie Meyer, Gavin Landmark, Cooper Holmlund, Landon Johnson, Treven Grimsrud, Jake Jorenby, Head Coach Jared Gass, Mgr. Jasper Corteau.

Head Coach: Jared Gass (3rd year)

Assistant Coaches: Cade Falor (Junior Varsity), Brock Landmark (Junior High)

2020-21 Recap: Improved from 6-15 to 15-6 overall. Made the Regional Final for the first time in many years. Bumped up to Class

A this year after playing in Class B in 2020-21.

Key athletes lost: Lost no players from last year's team.

Key returning athletes: Nick Bowne, Andrew Trooien, Mason Shaw, Sutton Fritz, Parker Crooks, Cooper Holmlund.

Team strengths: Defense and

rebounding. Unselfish play.

Team weaknesses: Consistent offensive output.

Coach's comments: This is a great group of kids who have bought into the style of play I expect. They work hard on Defense and rebound the ball well. We will be competitive most nights and

if we are hitting shots we will be pretty good, considering our consistent defensive and rebounding efforts.

We bumped up to Class A this year. We will be competitive in the Conference and hope to compete for a State Tournament birth come post-season.

Deubrook Area Girls Basketball



Front Row (Left to Right): Ellie Olsen, Miranda Moravetz, Emma Sheffield, Emma Vandermeer, Keyauna Gustad, Carley Landmark, Zoey Molengraaf, Kyarra Blum. **Middle Row (Left to Right):** Asst. Coach Gretchen Schulte, Madalyn Bauman, Hannah Kjelden, Ava Leen, Delaney Pedersen, Ellie Koenig, Skyla Petersen, Kadence Bowne, Allison Andrews, Brooke Koppatschek, Rhiley Grenz, Bailey Landmark, Kamryn Landmark, Asst. Coach Noah Jewett. **Back Row (Left to Right):** Head Coach Brad DeBeer, Asst. Coach Mo Petersen.

Head Coach: Brad DeBeer (18th season, 12th at Deubrook Area)

Assistant Coaches: Gretchen Schulte, Mo Petersen and Noah Jewett

2020-21 Recap: 16-5 overall. Won the Dakota Valley Conference Tournament.

"We had a great year last year,

winning the DVC Final and winning the DVC regular season title. It ended sooner than we would have liked, losing in the post-season to a much improved Arlington team," DeBeer said.

Key athletes lost: Baylee Holmlund and Andrea Vandermeer

Key returning athletes: Carley Landmark, Emaa Vandermeer

and Ellie Koenig. Return 14 letter-winners.

Team strengths: Depth, experience, athleticism, speed, size are all positions for us.

Team weaknesses: We lost our two leading scorers from last year, so it will be fun to see who steps up.

Coach's comments: We look

forward to the opportunity to move up to Class A from a year and put our skills to the test against a great Region 2.

We get the opportunity to play in the Hanson Classic this year and we feel like we have the tools to challenge the top teams. I look forward to the improvement this team will make.

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Lake Preston Boys Basketball



Front Row (Left to Right): John Jorenby, Sutton Fritz, Andrew Trooien, Nick Bowne, Dominic Lacek, Justin Moberg, Parker Crooks, Mason Shaw. **Back Row (Left to Right):** Mgr. Jackson Timmons, Aast. Coach Cade Falor, Gunnar Trooien, Richie Meyer, Gavin Landmark, Cooper Holmlund, Landon Johnson, Treven Grimsrud, Jake Jorenby, Head Coach Jared Gass, Mgr. Jasper Corteau.

Head coach: Brock Dufek (Dakota State University graduate, first season as head coach)

Assistant coaches: Paydon Casper, Jordan Solberg

Top athletes lost: Jasper Denison, Tate Larsen, Carter Malone, Rhett McMasters.

2020-21 starters returning: Riley Casper (letter-winner)

2020-21 recap: The Divers finished 7-14 overall last season in the Dakota Valley Conference. "Riley Casper is our lone returning starter and I am looking for him to bring leader-

ship to the team," Dufek said. "He averaged nine points per game last season and I suspect he will increase that this year."

Team strengths and weaknesses: "We are a strong basketball team that plays very physical," Dufek said. "How-

ever, we have very little varsity experience returning.

Coach's comments: "I am very excited to get the season going and excited to see what the Divers can do this year," Dufek said.

Lake Preston Girls Basketball



Front row (Left to Right): Amelia Howard, Brooklyn Halverson, Brityn Davies, Trinity Pirlet, Danielle Odegaard and Amelia Greene. **Back row (Left to Right):** Head coach Breanna Wendland, Ava Malone, Grace Hirsch Korn, Hadlee Holt, Faith Steffensen, Jocelyn Steffensen, Marissa Rober, Stella DeKnikker and assistant coach Carter Malone.

Head Coach: Breanna Wendland (1st season)

Assistant Coaches: Carter Malone

2020-21 Recap: Did not varsity schedule last year.

Key athletes lost: None.

Key returning athletes:

Junior Ava Malone, freshman Trinity Prilet and eighth grader Hadlee Holt. Stella DenKnikker and Amelia Greene both had season-ending injuries.

Team strengths and weaknesses: Our strengths and

weaknesses are that we are a fairly younger team. That benefits us because we have more time to improve skills and correct errors. It's also disadvantage due to the fact that we are so young and don't have as much experi-

ence as the other teams.

Coach's comments: We didn't have a varsity team last year, so we are looking forward to watching our girls improve over the season against some tougher competition.



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Arlington Boys Basketball



Pictured above are members of the Arlington boys basketball team. Names were not given to the the *Register*.

Head Coach: Aaron King, 1st season)

Assistant Coaches: Kyle Whitmyre

2020-21 Recap: Went 9-11. Mike Parry retired after 24 seasons as head coach of the Arlington Cardinals. He built a positive culture of basketball and had a great amount of success in those years. Competed in several games last

year and ended the season right around that .500 mark.

Key athletes lost: Mason Bunker, Christopher Wallace and Seth Madsen

Key returning athletes: Ryker Erstad, who was First Team All-Dakota Valley Conference. Caden Letsche and Britt Carlson.

Team strengths: Pe-

rimeter play and outside shooting.

Team weaknesses: Size and inexperience

Coach's comments: The coaching staff is excited to get to work and improve each day. Our goal is to continue our great culture of basketball in Arlington. We will have to grow a lot this year as we will have

players in new roles this season.

Our goal is to improve each day and give ourselves an opportunity to compete in and win games this season. The DVC is always a very competitive conference and our goal is to be in the mix at the top half of the conference.

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Arlington Girls Basketball



Back row (L-R): Brenley Goebel, Elizabeth Rowen, Dakota Flanery, Hadley Carlson, Grace Parry, Jaelyn Huntimer, Emma Spilde. **Middle row standing** (L-R): Jolyssa Steffensen, Harley Johnson, Dani Carlson, Tanaya Weiss. **Middle row kneeling** (L-R): Sony Johnson, Issabelle Steffensen, Kaelyn Ulschmid, Ellisynt Vincent, Addalyn Steffensen, Jersey Richards. **Front row** (L-R): Kaehlor Hanson, Madalyn Madsen, McKenzie Fredrickson, Addison Marone, Kashley Goebel.

Head Coach: Tara King (8th season)

Assistant Coaches: Clarissa Leiseth and Cooper Heiser

2020-21 Recap: “Our team went 11-12 on the season with a second-round region upset against Deubrook Area. We lost in the region championship

game to head to the SoDak 16 to De Smet,” King said.

Key athletes lost: None. Returning the entire team from last season.

Key returning athletes: Hadley Carlson (first-team All-DVC, All-Register team); Harley Johnson (sec-

ond-team All-DVC); Grace Parry, Erin Haufschild, Tanaya Weiss.

Conference outlook: Arlington plays in the very competitive Dakota Valley Conference, and the conference makeup this season is no different. King expects

Colman-Egan, Castlewood, Deubrook Area, De Smet, and Dell Rapids St. Mary to be near the top of the standings at the end of the year.

Coach’s comments: We are excited to be returning our entire team and build off our season from last year.

Flandreau Boys Basketball



Front row L-R: Matthew Gassman, Lurick Dailey, Ben Kulm and Cameron Flute. **Middle row L-R:** Alfie Henderson, Micah Otto, Alex Anderson, Daniel Hobbie, Talon Hardy, Tyce Ryan. **Back row L-R:** Maverick LeBrun, Paul Parsley, Luke Sheppard, Chase LeBrun, Liam Streitz, Tash Lunday, Tanner Reed.

The Flandreau boys' basketball team is looking to build off an appearance in the SoDak 16 last year and to qualify for the state tournament.

The Fliers return four senior starters – Tash Lunday, Chase LeBrun, Liam Streitz, and Alex Anderson.

Lunday is a two-time all-state selection and will start at the point for Flandreau, while LeBrun earned all-conference honors last season for his strong shooting.

"We have state tour-

ament expectations this year," head coach Brendan Sheppard said. "After falling short in the SoDak 16 last year, the players want to get there."

While four of the five starting positions are locked up, Sheppard says they'll be looking to develop a rotation not only for team depth but also for the fifth starting spot.

"Beyond our four seniors who have started for three years, we will rely on developing

young players to fill the varsity rotation spots," Sheppard said.

The Fliers will rely heavily on their seniors.

"The strengths of this year's team will be our returning experience and size," Sheppard said. Defensively, we will be very good and should be able to dominate on the glass."

However, for Flandreau, keeping those seniors healthy all season will determine the amount of success they achieve.

"This will be an exciting year for the Fliers," Sheppard added. "We have some really good seniors who are very experienced, however, after that it will be interesting to see what players can step up and fill roles for us. We will need our seniors to stay healthy, as the depth behind them is limited."

Flandreau opens the season Friday at Chester Area. The Fliers first home game is Tuesday, Dec. 14 against Hamlin.



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Flandreau Girls Basketball



Front row L-R: Abby Schoeberl, Bella Pavlis, Bre Ramirez, Hayden Neises, Addy Hammer, Josie Hamilton, Sadie Iott, Grace Krull. Back row L-R: Diamond Roy, Maria Parsley, Lizzie Pavlis, Claire Sheppard, Olivia Peters, Lily Klein and Faith Wiese.

After falling in overtime in the SoDak 16 to Sioux Falls Christian, the Flandreau girls' basketball team looks to take the next step into the state tournament.

The Fliers finished tied for the Big East Conference regular season championship in 2020-21 with Garretson and McCook Central-Montrose and head coach Megan Severtson says a strong schedule this season will help the Fliers as the season progresses.

"Our schedule provides many opportunities for us to play against some of the best teams in the area and the state of South Dakota," Severtson said. "We are hoping that our experiences throughout the year prepare us to play our best basketball come Regions."

The Fliers return a trio of players who earned All-Conference honors last year. Sophomore Claire Sheppard earned third-team All-State honors in Class A,

first-team recognition in the Big East Conference, and was named to the Lake Central All-Conference team, as well, after averaging 17.5 points per game and 7.4 rebounds per contest.

A pair of seniors – Maria Parsley (9.8 PPG, 9.1 RPG) and Bella Pavlis (9.4 PPG, 2.8 RPG, 2.9 APG) were named second and third team All-Conference, respectively, in the Big East Conference. Parsley was also named to the Lake Central All-Confer-

ence team.

Flandreau is a team built on athleticism and length, but depth will be an issue this season. However, the Fliers' primary players know how to win games.

"We have a core group of girls that have played a lot of basketball together, including big game situations," Severtson said.

The Fliers open their season at home this Thursday, hosting Chester Area.

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Estelline/Hendricks Girls Basketball



Front Row (Left to Right): Madelyn Ebbers, Heidi Nicola, Kate Wegner, Julie Williams, Emma Pierce. **Middle Row (Left to Right):** Maycee Faehrich, Madalene Williams, Ada Hartung, Sadie Johnson, Ayla Texley. **Back Row (Left to Right):** Nataley Ebbers, Claire Dagel, Kenzy Beare, Rachel Hexem, Brooke Johnson

Head Coach: Eric Bass (1st year at Estelline/Hendricks, 11th overall)

Assistant Coaches: Hilary Suther and Kaylee Faehrich

2020-21 Recap: Went 9-12 overall.

Key athletes lost: Kylie Beare, Jordan Seathoff, Kaylee Johnson,

Jesade Siverson and Emily Johnson.

Key returning athletes: Senior Kate Wegner who averaged eight points per game last season. Sophomore Kenzy Beare who averaged four points per game last season.

Team strengths: Length and work ethic.

Team weaknesses: Inexperience at the varsity level.

Coach's comments: The girls are adjusting well to the new coaching staff and system. We have a lot of inexperienced players heading into the new season and will have to make adjustments to utilize our players strengths.

The Dakota Valley Conference has a lot of very talented teams and players. Arlington, Colman-Egan, DeSmet and Dell Rapids St. Mary will be the top teams in the conference. Defending Class A State Champion Aberdeen Roncalli will be moving down to Class B this season.

Estelline/Hendricks Gymnastics

Head Coach: Sherri Johnson (23rd season)

Assistant Coaches: Angie Scotting, Greta Johnson and Sophie Johnson

2020-21 Recap: Had a challenging season last year. Were shut down for over five weeks and were unable to compete in January due to COVID restrictions.

Finished in fifth in the State Tournament. Season high score was 134.3. Finished third in the

region behind Deuel and Madison.

"Our girls really persevered and were very successful considering our circumstances," Johnson said.

Key athletes lost: Kaylee Johnson and Mercedes Hicks

Key returning athletes: Senior Serena Schwartz, who was a State qualifier. Junior Bryn Peterson, who was a State qualifier. Sophomore Sadie Johnson, a

All-Tournament Team member the past three years, a Region and State placer. Sophomore Kenzy Beare, who was a State qualifier last year.

Team strengths: Our strengths are our work ethics and positive attitudes. Our strongest events are vault and floor and we have the potential to do well on beam.

Team weaknesses: We lack depth on bars and hope to improve on our performances last

season.

Coach's comments: We have a wonderful bunch of girls and are excited for a great season of gymnastics. We are thankful to be able to practice and are excited for competitions to begin! We have a lot of youth on our team with lots of talent and potential. We are looking forward for our program to continue to improve and grow.

Estelline/Hendricks Boys Basketball

Head Coach: Andy Hansen (8th season)

Assistant Coaches: Tim Cass, Brandon Krein and Max Hausman

2020-21 Recap: 8-13 overall. The highest win total in seven years.

Key athletes lost: Riley Benning and Jacoby Flege

Key returning athletes: Braxton Saathoff, who was Second Team All-Conference and averaged 17 points per game last season. Dawson Bury, averaged 12

points per game last year.

Team strengths: Bring back a lot of playing experience at the varsity level.

Team weaknesses: Will need to shoot the ball well from outside to help make up for our lack of height.

Coach's comments: We bring back our two leaders in scoring, rebounding and assists from last year. We will need to have great team rebounding to help make up for our lack of height.



Front row L-R: Mattix Hausman, Caden Ching, Ethan Axtell, Trey Cass, Wyatt James, Mathew McAninch, Camden Hobbs. **Back row L-R:** Braxton Pravecek, Joe McAninch, Dawson Bury, Braxton Jongeling, Braxton Saathoff, Caleb Hofer, Lorenzo Iotti. **Not pictured:** Davin Carlson

Oldham-Ramona/Rutland Boys Basketball

Head Coach: Tim Jager (2nd year, 11-11)

Assistant Coaches: Chace Hulstein

2020-21 Recap: 11-11. Was a young team with little varsity experience and a new coach that finished .500 on the year. Started the season 3-0 scoring 70 points or more. Will Matson and Orion Albertson almost beat our single game scoring record of 34 points with 32 points each scored respectively.

Key athletes lost: None.

Key returning athletes: Senior Will Matson, senior Will Olson, senior Isaac Trygstad, senior Orion Albertson and senior Kenneth Lindholm.

Team strengths: Our strengths are our athleticism and speed.

Team weaknesses: With not a lot of height we'll be getting outrebounded and last year with no experience at varsity level turnovers. Shooting percentage was lower than would have liked

Coach's comments: Looking forward to the season with a great group of guys.



Back Row (Left to Right): Shayne DeVaney, Riley Schneider, Isaac Trygstad, Caden Hojer and Kenneth Lindholm. **Front Row (Left to Right):** Caleb Jatton, Will Olson, Kadyr Gehrels, Jacob Jatton and Orion Albertson. **Not pictured:** Will Matson.

Elkton-Lake Benton Girls Basketball

Head Coach: Mirista Bushman
Assistant Coaches: Ashlyn Punt

2020-21 Recap: Went 5-17

Key athletes lost: Hannah Krog, Julia Drietz and Brooklyn Nielsen.

Key returning athletes: Rachael Krog and Kailyn Drietz.

Team strengths: The Lady Elks will look to their depth in shooters and ball handlers are key areas that we will utilize this year. We gained a new player who has given us some additional height and strength on the boards.

Team weaknesses: We lost three starters from last year's team and have no seniors this year, but this year's team does have Varsity experience from last year which will be beneficial.

Coach's comments: We lost three starters from last year's team and have no seniors this year, but this year's team does have Varsity experience from last year which will be beneficial.



Pictured above is the Elkton-Lake Benton girls basketball team. Names were not provided to the Register.

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Elkton-Lake Benton Boys Basketball



Front Row: (Left to Right): Tanner Stein, Jackson Smallfield, Riley Hunter, Logan Kuehl, Aiden Erickson, Riddick Westley, Blake DeVries, Garrett Neill. Middle Row (Left to Right): Isaiah Olson, Tanner Drietz, Riley Nordmeyer, Quinten Poindexter, Teigan Krog, Rylen Coe, Ashton Neill. Back Row (Left to Right): Ryan Krog, Miles Harming, Brody Bales, Andrew Wieme, Carson Griffith, Isaac Jaacks, Lane Thompson, Anthony Even.

Head Coach: Steve Erickson (15th season, 187-125)

2020-21 Recap: Went 18-5 and lost in the SoDak 16 to Dell Rapids St. Mary.

Key athletes lost: Forward Matthew Nibbe, guard Marcus Harming, forward Mason Gaumer, guard/forward Mason Ramlo, guard Ryan Smallfiel and foward William Neill.

Key returning athletes: Senior guard Aiden Erickson, who averaged 8.5 points, 3.5 rebounds and 2.6 assists per game last season. Senior guard Miles Harming, who averaged 9.3 points, 3.8 rebounds and 2.4 assists per game.

Junior forward Ryan Krog, senior guard Logan Kuehl, senior forward Isaac Jaacks, senior guard Riley Hunter and senior forward

Lane Thompson also return.

Coach's comments: We will have a veteran team that has played some big games at the varsity level. Our kids have experience and have played a lot of ball together, so we are going to rely on that and hope that we can develop some younger guys to build our depth. We are not going to be overly big, although we have some length at positions that

will allow us to change things up on both ends of the floor and hopefully utilize some mismatches that we may create with our abilities. We are moving up to class A, we will be in Region 2, so Sioux Valley, Flandreau, Deuel, Hamlin, Deubrook, among others are all going to present problems and different matchups for us that we will have to be ready to adapt to.

Oldham-Ramona/Rutland Girls Basketball

Head Coach: Crystal Hansen (1st season)

Assistant Coaches: Jael Lundquist and Jason Hanson

2020-21 Recap: Went 3-19 overall and 0-7 in the Dakota Valley Conference.

Key athletes lost: Brianna Primm

Key returning athletes: Juniors Paige Hanson and Brooklyn Hageman. Sophomores Julia Trygstad and Alivia Bickett.

Team strengths: One of our strengths would be that we have a lot of starters and returning varsity bench that have had a lot of playing time together and know how each other play on

the court.

Team weaknesses: A weakness we have is finding a way for the girls to finish the game no matter the circumstances, keeping their heads up and finish! We also don't have a big bench with only 21 girls 7-12th grade.

Coach's comments: I am excited for the season as we have a young, athletic, hard-working team. I look forward to seeing the progress this team makes. If they play as a team and communicate on the court, this group can accomplish many goals we have for this season.



Back Row (Left to Right): Alivia Spilde, Julia Trygstad, Brooklyn Hageman, Paige Hanson, Alivia Bickett and Bella Malisch. Front Row (Left to Right): Hayden Oftedal, Emily Matson, Grace Feige and Bailey Hyland

Colman-Egan Boys Basketball

Head Coach: Nick Theroux (1st year)

Assistant Coaches:

2020-21 Recap: Went 0-21

Key athletes lost: Ryan Voelker

Key returning athletes: Austin Gullickson, Ben Zwart and Camden Schmidt.

Team strengths: They are a very fast group of kids and the willingness to get better is there every day.

Team weaknesses: Last year the team turned the ball over at an extremely high rate. The inefficiency to break presses and get things set up on the offensive end really hurt us.

Coach's comments: While the team struggled with a winless year last year, I feel they have all the potential to be a great basketball team. Coming into the year expect a scrappy team on the defensive side of the ball as well as a fast-paced team on the offensive side. The 0-21 record does not define these guys it just makes them want to work harder and they will show it on the court. Looking forward to a great year.



Front Row (Left to Right): Sutton Bunde, Chris Lee, Jonny Keyes, Logan Voelker, Sawyer Uhing, Hayden Pearson, Mikano Lee and Dalin Billmeier. **Middle Row (Left to Right):** Jack Mousel, Xander Mallory, Camden Schmidt, Antonio Manzano Villegas, Austin Gullickson, Jackson Wright, Tobey Lee, Davien Billmeier, Jack Whitehouse. **Back Row (Left to Right):** Taylor Kreich, Travis Ustanko, Jesse Baumberger, Carson Voelker, Ben Zwart, Levi Baumberger, Jase Mousel, Karson Quale, Jack Zwart.

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Colman-Egan Girls Basketball



Front Row (Left to Right): Paisley Rentschler, Brynlee Landis and Presley Luze. **Middle Row (Left to Right):** Berkley Groos, Elaina Rhode, Kaylee Voelker, Anna Zwart, Reese Luze and Ava Mousel. **Back Row (Left to Right):** Kadance Landis, Josie Mousel, Abby Rhode, Lanie Mousel, Hailey Larson and Mackenzie Hemmer

Head Coach: Tyler Husby (5th year)

Assistant Coaches: Abigail Dockter and Katlyn Menzie

2020-21 Recap: We went 13-9 last season. We had a very competitive year a season ago. We got hit hard with the injury bug, with a few season ending injuries to a few major starters, and several other players with nagging injuries. We were not at 100% health last season or anywhere near that.

With that we had a lot of younger players step up into big shoes, and bigger roles. They did a great job playing those roles and going out and competing night in and night out.

We went 13-9 and lost 5 games by 5 points or less. It was a very tough year as far as injuries go, but we saw a lot of girls really grow as basketball players last year, that will give them great ex-

perience coming into this season.

We played in our regular season conference tournament last season, where we lost to Deubrook. We made it to the 3rd round of the region tournament last year where we got beat by Ethan 48-43.

Key athletes lost: Kennadi Landis, Olivia Baumberger and Braiden Westley.

Key returning athletes: Junior Josie Mousel, a First Team All-Conference member last season.

Senior Mackenzie Hemmer, who was Second Team All-Conference last season. She has been a First or Second Team All-Conference since her eighth grade year.

Team strengths: One of our greatest team strengths again for this upcoming season is that we have a very athletic team. We will really look to use this to our benefit this season with our pace of

play. Our girls have continued to put a lot of work into the skills of the game of basketball which continues to show. Overall, we have good team size, which to go along with our overall team athleticism will be a big benefit for our team this season.

Team weaknesses: Our biggest team weakness is being constant throughout the year. In the years past we have been inconsistent in our play, and it has led to us having some losses throughout the year that we shouldn't and has hurt our end of the year seeding. This season we really must focus on being a constant team night in and night out.

Coach's comments: We are really looking forward to getting this season started.

The outlook on our team this season is very positive, we have a

very strong core group of players returning for us that have played a lot of basketball for us. Our girls have continued to put a lot of time into improving not only their basketball skills, but also dedicating a lot of time in the weight room and running workouts.

We have a great group of girls that love to work hard and get after it. This group had a great summer of attending team camps and being competitive in those team camps.

We have a very dedicated group that works extremely hard for their success, and our girls' programs here at Colman-Egan have been extremely successful in the past few years. We hope that success continues to bleed into all the programs here at Colman-Egan, including basketball this season.



Good Luck Athletes!

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