

2020

# WINTER SPORTS preview



THE  
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**Register**



# Girls' basketball team eyes bounce-back season

BROOKINGS – The Brookings girls' basketball team is looking to bounce back after a rough 2019-2020 season where they went 1-19.

Brookings head coach Mitch McLagan said after the season his coaches and players went through a reflection period to make sure that they never had a season like that again.

"Through this reflection period our coaching staff has worked really hard and so have our players," McLagan said. "Our players have spent a lot of time in the off-season working hard at the things that we needed to improve on. This team has a bit of a different attitude this year and I think that attitude is going to help us going into this season.

"[Heading into this season] it's up and down. Do I think we're ready right now? Probably not. ... We're going to find out pretty quick where we were at. Everyone is going to go through it and that's why I think depth is going to be so important this year."

The Bobcats have three seniors this year in Lydia Engebretson, Olivia Jorgenson and Haley Sampson. McLagan said he is going to count on them to lead the team this season.



"We have three seniors and they're going to provide us with a lot of leadership. But then outside of the three seniors there's going to be a lot of younger players that are going to play significant minutes for us. If you asked me a couple weeks ago or a month ago, I wasn't sure if they were going to be ready. They have worked extremely hard. We're going to be more athletic this year and we

have a different mindset in wanting to attack and constantly making contact offensively and getting to the basket. I feel this group has a little fight in them," McLagan said.

Heading into the season McLagan said he didn't want to have a win total goal because he didn't think it would be fair with the schedule his team plays. Instead he made other goals and said


if they do those things the wins will come.

"A big issue for us last year was turning the ball over," McLagan said. "So a big goal for us every night is going to be to have less turnovers than the other team. We want to defend. We want to rebound. So another goal is going to be to outrebounding every team that we play.

"I think our goals as a team are to have a con-

stant fight. I thought last year there were a couple times where the other team kind of punched us in the mouth and we didn't really have a response. Our goal this year is to compete more. If the other team starts to go on a run, we have to put our foot down and put a stop to that and I feel like we didn't do a great job of that. So that's going to be interesting to see once the season gets started."

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# Boys' basketball squad trying to get back on track

BROOKINGS – After a challenging season last year, the Brookings boys' basketball team is looking to get back on track this year.

The Bobcats went 2-18 last year and did not qualify for the playoffs. Head coach Travis Engebretson said it was a crazy off-season, but he is looking forward to this season.

"The biggest thing was that we were not able to get in the gym a whole lot last season. But we have four guys back from last year that have good experience in Nick Schefers, Henry Hammrich, Casey Woodall and Brock Longville. So we have a pretty good core. Kids have been working pretty hard in practice and so we're feeling pretty good," Engebretson said.

Brookings returns just one starter from last year in Schefers. Schefers averaged 12.6 points and 5.3 rebounds per game last year and Engebretson said he expects big things from Schefers this year.

"Obviously we're going to ask a lot of things from [Schefers] this season," Engebretson said. "He was our leading scorer last year and leading rebounder. So those things we're definitely going to lean on him for. He's a really good perimeter shooter. Shoots the ball well from three. He's got a good post up game as well, so we're going to have to spend some time trying to get him the right looks. Whether that's in the perimeter or the post."

Schefers is going to need some help if the Bobcats want to improve from last season. Engebretson said Hammrich and Woodall are guys who he thinks can be main contributors.

"For Henry, the biggest thing for him is being able to play under control," Engebretson said. "He got himself in trouble last year when he kind of got out of control. But we're going to



have to have him play the point for us and he's going to be our playmaker. He's going to have to be a floor leader and we're going to ask a lot from him offensively and then defensively he's extremely quick and extremely athletic.

"As for Casey, he's kind of our glue guy. He does everything well and does all the little things. He boxes out and rebounds well. He makes the right pass on the offensive end and he play 1 or the 5 and guard anyone in any situation. So he's the guy that's a big X-factor for us because he does a lot of things and he does them well."

The Bobcats have a total of six seniors on the team in-

cluding Schefers, Woodall and Hammrich. Engebretson said he thinks the other three seniors, Keegan Fields, Max Struck and Noah Bayer and junior big man Brock Longville are going to be the most improved guys this year.

"We have a couple seniors who are coming off of good football seasons in Keegan Fields and Noah Bayer. Those guys are going to have to kind of find their roles and I think that's the biggest thing right now for these guys. They're going to be given an opportunity though. Brock Longville manned the post for us last year and he's going to be a big force for us down in the post. He's another guy that's coming

off a good football season. We're going to ask a lot from him and he's going to have to spend a lot of time guarding guys that are a lot taller than him, but he's a big physical kid and I know he'll be up for the task," Engebretson said.

He added that junior Zach Moe could also step up and surprise some people this season.

"[Moe] has a good all around basketball game. He can shoot it from the perimeter or put it on the floor and take it to the basket. He's the one that might surprise some people as the season goes along," he said.

Engebretson said if his team wants to improve from last year they are going to have to play as

a team, share the basketball and box out and rebound.

"I think the biggest thing is that we have good team chemistry, so I would say playing together as a team has to be a big goal for us. Offensively, we have to do a much better job than we did last year at sharing the basketball and getting guys touches. I think that's going to be a big part for us. Defensively, I think we're going to be very athletic on the defensive side of things, so I think we have to make sure that we have to do a good job boxing out and rebounding. If you look at our roster we don't have a lot of size. ... It's going to have to be a team rebounding mentality," Engebretson said.

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Maroney's Mugshots photo

Front row - Kaden Gutormson and Kade Brecher; Middle row - Head Coach Justin Kirchhevel, Isaac Schulte, Joseph Wu, Spencer Heflin, Talon Richter, Ashton Witte, Logan Bortnem, Ike Johnson, Isaac Dobesh, Wes Koenig, Owen Schneider, Jackson Law, Jack Merritt and Coach Cody Honkomp; Back row - Coach Tommy Houglund Connor Strand,

Trenton Pederson, Kole Kalber, Geoffrey Svobodny, Gavan Stewart, Brody Powers, Jamison Honkomp, Alec Rice, Jacob Drew, Breck Hirrschoff, Zach Struck, Max Kjelden, Jordan Raatz, David Brink and Coach Aaron Carsrud.

# Ranger boys seeking state title

The Rangers are on a mission this season.

"I think the past two years have been our development years," said coach Justin Kirchhevel. "Last year we ended up getting second place in league and we graduated a few kids that were part of the team but we had some younger guys step up.

"So I think our goal this year is to end up at the top and kind

of go out with a bang. From last year, we have some unfinished business that we need to take care of this year and keep moving forward."

The Rangers were perhaps the hottest team in the field last year when the state tournament was canceled due to COVID-19.

Brookings belted Watertown 9-0 in the quarterfinals and was set to face No. 6 seed Oahe in the

semis when things were called off.

Sioux Falls 1 won the league with 34 points (17-3) and Brookings was second at 32 (15-3-1-1).

Max Kjelden led the squad with 32 points (18 goals/14 assists) in 2019-20.

The Rangers return six of their top seven scorers overall, including Breck Hirrschoff 26 (14/12), Ashton Witte 23 (17/6), Logan Bortnem 22 (10/12), Jamison

Honkomp 13 (2/11) and Talon Richter 10 (4/6).

Brookings graduated Carter Merritt - 27 (11/16)

Kade Brecher was 7-1-1 with a 2.46 GAA and a .880 save percentage while splitting time at goalie a year ago.

"I think our strengths are depth - we have a lot of guys back from last year that are our leading scorers," added Kirch-

hevel. "We have some guys that move up from Bantams that are looking to basically take the roles of the guys that left. We have a core defense 5-6 deep.

"For the first time, we have deep lines so we can play with the lines and kind of manipulate the situation to benefit us the most. So we're excited about the depth and continuity we have throughout the program right now."

**Good luck on your upcoming season!**

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# Ranger girls building depth, looking to take next step

The Ranger girls continue to add depth as they battle through the 2020-21 campaign.

“(We’re looking) really good. We’re obviously battling a lot of health issues right now; we’re kind of over them. If we can stay healthy, we’ll be good – it’s just a matter of keeping everybody there,” said coach Donovan Peterson.

Sophomore Savannah Barber led the team in scoring a year ago, racking up 39 points with 22 goals and 17 assists.

Fellow sophomore Kiran Vugteveen added 10 points (4/6).

Senior goalie Jadyn Runge is coming off an 8-4 campaign that saw her post a GAA of 2.87 and a save percentage of .889.

Brookings has six seniors.

“So we’re looking for a lot out of our seniors,” added Peterson. “... That’s kind of our goal is to get everybody a lot of minutes and get ready for next year and have a good finish to this year.”

The Rangers fell in the semifinals each of the past two seasons – to Sioux Falls in 2019 and Aberdeen in 2018 – after reaching the final in 2018. They dropped an 11-6 decision to Aberdeen that year.



Maroney's Mugshots photo

Front row - Aletha Baker and Heidi Merriman; Middle row - Jadyn Kuehl, Raya Hesser, Savannah Barber, Janaya Kuehl, McKenna Geraets, Emma Rice, Alexis Schelske, Addison Ramlo, Kiran Vugteveen, Ella Park and Jayda Geraets; Back row - Coach JaColby Anderson, Ava Kahle, Miyah Foerster, Taylor Hokenson, Taryn Richter, Julissa Peterson, Head Coach Donovan Peterson, Anna Rasmussen, Shauna Pederson, Payton Triplett, Kayla Shoup, Kinzey Grendler, Sawyer Triplett and Coach Austin Koenig. Not pictured is Jadyn Runge.

“Just everybody showing up on that day,” said Peterson when asked of the keys of getting through the semis. “I think a deeper bench is going to help us – I mean, we’ve kind of always been a little short-benched. You

get to the end of the year and we get worn out. It’s always a battle – the top four teams are always really close and really competitive. Unfortunately, the last few years we’ve been that 3-4 team so we’re always going

up against 1 or 2.

“So we know it’s going to be a difficult task and we can’t do it with two lines – that’s kind of what we’re trying to build towards this year is some depth so when we do, ideally, get into

that semifinal game we could stay with those teams and keep our first and second lines fresh and keep our scorers fresh and be able to put some pucks in the net – it’s hard to do when you’re tired.”



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# Wrestlers young but talented in 2020-21

**BROOKINGS** – The Brookings wrestling team is going to be going through a bit of a rebuilding season this year. The Bobcats have just one senior on their roster.

Despite that, head coach Scott Miller said he thinks his team has a lot of talent.

“We’re rebuilding this year with a real good freshman and sophomore class. At 195 were returning Luke Rassmusen who was a state runner up last year and it looks like he’ll be right in the thick of things for a state championship this year. We also return sophomore Tyson Brandt who finished eighth last year [at 152]. So we’re looking at those two to really get us back,” Miller said.

Nolan Archer is the lone senior on the roster. He will be wrestling at the 182-pound weight class after missing last season with an injury. Sophomore James Olson made it to the state tournament at 220.

“With Nolan back we’re pretty excited to see him. He’s a very athletic young man. He’s fun to watch wrestle and is very quick. ... James is a year stronger and a year bigger. We have a lot of competition for that 220-pound



Front row – Cole Novotny, Spencer Christie, Gabe Stern, Cherish Stern, Tate Helmbolt, Nolan Archer, Israel Caldron, Nolan Miles.  
Back row – Max Hoppe, Samson Flakus, Braeden Stadler, Will Bauer, Luke Rasmussen, James Olson, Caleb Loehr, Gavin Klinkhammer, Daniel Klug.

weight class. We had three or four challenge matches already. We have another man in Caleb Loehr [at 220] who was here a few years ago and moved to Ohio and now he’s back. So it’s good to see him,” Miller said.

Miller said his team is young, but he expects some big things from them.

“We have inexperience with eight freshmen and seven sophomores that are going to see some varsity time at different weights this year. It’s going to be a trying year, but at the same time as kids get more experience, it’s going to

be fun to watch them grow and get better as we head into February,” Miller said.

Of the 14 underclassmen, Miller said he is most excited to see freshmen Nolan Miles, Joey Fitzpatrick and Samson Flakus.

“We had high hopes for Nolan Miles last year and he ran into probably one of the toughest weights at region at 106 last year and he’ll be at 113 this year and have a possibility to make the state tournament. Joey Fitzpatrick, who will be wrestling probably at 132 or 138, he actually placed at the middle school state

tournament last year and lost in the first round and came back and won six or seven matches in-a-row. So that’s awesome. ... We also have another freshman in Samson Flakus [at 285] who’s new to our program. He’s fun to watch and is going to be a good wrestler as time goes on,” Miller said.

Miller said his goal for the first part of the season is to fill in the weight classes. As the season goes on he hopes that he can send some guys to the state tournament.

“As the year goes on we’re

going to fill in the weight classes. Some of these younger kids, we’re going to see how they adapt to the ESD wrestling schedule. It’s not easy because there are no let downs throughout the season. So we’ll slowly get into and as time goes on we’re looking to place top three in the region and depending on how we develop we’re going to see how many we can place at the state tournament. It could be anywhere from two to six kids. So we’re young and it’s all going to depend on how we improve,” Miller said.

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# Gymnastics team looking sharp again in 2020-21

The Brookings gymnastics team has placed in the top four at the state meet each of the past three seasons.

The Bobcats were fourth behind Watertown, Mitchell and Harrisburg in 2019. They took third behind the former two in both 2018 and 2017.

"We're doing well so far," said Hall of Fame coach Rachele Engbrecht. "We went to the Sioux Falls Invite, which is probably a good look to see where everybody is in the state – we didn't get to see Rapid City – but we ended up third there. Mitchell and Watertown were ahead of us – kind of the same as last year.

"(We definitely want) to hang in the top three and we'll do our darndest to try to catch (the Arrows and Kernels)."

Returning letterwinners are senior Hannah Walsh, senior Sierra Stevens, senior Lily Siemonsma, senior Isabella Portz, senior Kasey Bachar, junior Sydney Grendler, junior Rachel Gannon and sophomore Tayla Dobrenski.

Gannon has placed in at least one event at state every season she's been on varsity and has a trio of podium visits in the all-around.

Gannon won the floor exercise



in 2017 with a score of 9.6.

She was seventh in the all-around in both 2017 (35.875) and 2018 (35.475) and eighth in 2019 (35.775).

Gannon took third on the floor as a freshman (9.45) and fifth as a sophomore (9.425).

The last three years she's been ninth (8.975), 10th (8.825) and tied for eighth (8.85), respectively, on

the beam.

Gannon tied for ninth on the bars with an 8.8 as a seventh-grader. Brookings was sixth as a team in 2016.

Stevens ended up 10th on the vault (9.175) and tied for 10th on the beam (8.95) a season ago.

Siemonsma was seventh on the bars (8.7) in 2018 and finished in a tie for fifth on the beam

(8.925) in 2017.

"We have a huge group. We have a bunch of returning letterwinners and some new girls coming out for the first year this year," added Engbrecht. "It's really hard as a coach right now to pick, because they are so good and so close together.

"So we have a really good core group back from last year and

we have some new girls coming in too, so it will be interesting to watch.

"Even from tryouts it was hard (to pick a lineup). We cut at a higher score than we ever have and we kept more girls than we ever have. So we have a lot of girls in the girl. With six seniors really being leaders for us, it helps a lot."

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*Previews of the swimming and bowling teams will appear in the Register this week.*



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# Sioux Valley Boys' Basketball



Jess Gatzke/Jae Ann Photography

Front row left to right: Hayden Ruesink, Parker Puetz, Patrick Carey, Colby Gatzke, Kelton Vincent, Oliver Vincent

Middle row left to right: Dylon Milton, Carson Christopherson, Layson Lucas, Damian Danzeisen, Connor Gross, Kyler Bezdichek, Aden Mangan, Lane Liebsch

Back row left to right: Dylan Mcdowell, Jace Christensen, Hudsyn Ruesink, Boden Schiller, Alec Squires, Caleb Murphy, Aidan Brower

**Head Coach:** Bill Vincent, 24th season (388-131 record)

**Assistant Coaches:** Buster Vincent, Greg DeKnikker

**2019-20 Recap:** 21-1. Big East Conference and Lake Central Conference champions. No. 2 seed in state tournament, which was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic ... Beat Class AA No. 1

Huron and Class B No. 1 De Smet. ... Best record in all of boys' basketball in South Dakota.

**Key athletes lost:** Max Nielson (Northern State), Ryan Schuster (Dakota State), Lane VanderWal (Watne State), Parker Loban.

**Key returning athletes:** Seniors Kelton Vincent, Jaxton Schiller, Colby Gatzke; sophomores Parker Puetz,

Hayden Ruesink, Oliver Vincent, Patrick Carey.

**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. We should be solid defensively and on the boards.

**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 nonconference 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," said Vincent.



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# Sioux Valley Girls' Basketball

**Head Coach:** Jamie Granum, 4th year

**Assistant Coaches:** Brooke Mathern.

**2019-20 Recap:** 9-12, lost in quarterfinals of Region 2A.

**Key athletes lost:** Miakken Vincent, Ellie Schmidt.

**Key returning athletes:** Reagan Johnson (11 ppg, 7 rpg), Abbie Schneider (7 ppg, 6 rpg), Julia Schneider (shot 41% from 3), Ashley Bjerke, Laryn Stevens, Isabelle Bloker, Jada Knutson.

**Team strengths:** Overall program depth. More playing experience than previous years. We return three starters.

**Team weaknesses:** Speed/quickness. Consistent shotmakers.

**Coach's comments:** "We head into the 2020-21 season with the top of the region occupied by a couple of the top teams in the state – that doesn't sit really well for all the other teams when you want to finish in the top two for a



SoDak 16 spot. We lost our leading scorer last year in Miakken Vincent. We lost a nice defensive player in senior Ellie Schmidt. We return a nice core of young, hungry players that have been in the gym a lot. Reagan Johnson is extremely athletic who makes a lot of plays both offensively and defensively with effort alone.

Abbie Schneider is a really good rebounder, and can shoot it from 3 really well. She is also a three-year starter. Julia Schneider is in her third year as our starting point guard, and her game just continues to improve. Ashley Bjerke was our sixth man and had a couple of spot starts as a freshman, she sees the court extremely

well. Our overall program depth grades 7-12 is so improved compared to three years ago. Our program is playing more basketball year around than we have in the past. We have talent in every grade level, so we are excited for not only this year in our program but for future years as well," said Granum.

# Sioux Valley Wrestling

**Front:** Mitchell Guthmiller, Dublinn Vermuleen, Tate Stefensen

**Back:** Evan Schade, Andrew Gunderson, Wyatt Hardt, Owen Vanderweerd, Dillen Sheeley.

**Missing:** Seth Heidenreich, David Knutson, Joe Hornick, Dylan Strouth, Russell Sheets, Wyatt Hockett, Skylar Trygstad, Tyson Moe, Zane Miller





# Deubrook Area Girls' Basketball

Front row: Delaney Pedersen, Kyarra Blum, Ellie Koenig, Kandance Bowne

Second row: Ava Leen, Allison Andrews, Skyla Petersen, Keyanna Gustad, Kamryn Landmark, Brooke Koppatschek, Miranda Moravetz

Back row: Ellie Olsen, Carley Landmark, Andrea Vandermeer, Emma Sheffield, Baylee Holmlund, Emma Vandermeer, Kylie Ramlo

**Head Coach:** Brad DeBeer, 11th season with Dolphins.

**Assistant Coaches:** Gretchen Schulte, Mo Petersen, Cade Falor

**2019-20 Recap:** 14-7, Dakota Valley Conference Tournament champions

**Key athletes lost:** Claire Olsen, Ashley Landmark, Macyn Peterson, Autumn Molengraaf.

**Key returning athletes:** Baylee Holmlund



(All-DVC), Andrea Vandermeer (All-DVC HM), Ellie Koenig (All-DVC), Emma Vandermeer, Carley Landmark, Emma Sheffield, Miranda Moravetz, Brooke Koppatschek.

**Team strengths:**

Length, athleticism, experience.

**Team weaknesses:** Physicality. Need to be better rebounders and find consistency in the post.

**Coach's comments:** "This is going to be

a fun team to watch. We play a competitive schedule that will prepare us for postseason play. We are excited to have the opportunity to play," said DeBeer.

# Deubrook Area Boys' Basketball

Front row: JP Rogness, Gunnar Trooien, Riley Niehus, Nolan Peterson, Richie Meyer, Jake Jorenby, Gavin Landmark, Trevor Gallaher, Devon Landmark

Back row: Zach Buchholz, Dylan Rios, Mason Shaw, Sutton Fritz, Colin Bauman, Dominic Lacek, Cody Schultz, Cooper Holmlund, Colton Trooien, Parker Crooks, Nash Colberg, Andrew Trooien, Justin Moberg, Nick Bowne, Treven Grimsrud







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# Lake Preston Boys' Basketball

Front row – Weston Woodcock, Jonah Denison, Andru Andrews, Garrett Kruger, Jake Larsen, Ryne Greene, Ashton Wienk. Back row – Tate Larsen, Josh McMasters, Rhett McMasters, Jasper Denison, Carter Malone, Riley Casper, Tyler Jurrens, Chris Tvinnereim.



**Head Coach:** Jordan Solberg, 5th season

**Assistant Coaches:** Brock Dufek

**2019-20 Recap:** 10-12. Beat Hitchcock-Tulare in Region 3B first round before falling 61-51 to Wolsey-Wessington in quarterfinals

**Key athletes lost:** Jarrett Brown, Austin Strande

**Key returning athletes:** Jasper Denison (All-DVC), Carter

Malone (All-DVC HM), Tate Larsen, Rhett McMasters

**Team strengths:** Rebounding, experience and length

**Team weaknesses:** Post defense, defending quick guards,

consistent shooting

**Coach's comments:** "This is the most experienced group Lake Preston has seen in years. We bring back four seniors with multiple years of varsity experience.

We play in a very tough conference and look to finish in the top half. The team will look to depend on pressure defense and an up-tempo offensive attack," said Solberg.

# Oldham-Ramona/Rutland Girls' Basketball

Assistant Coaches Jael Lundquist and Crystal Hansen, Julia Trygstad, Alivia Bickett, Faith Hale, Brianna Primm, Josie Timm, Rylie Aschmeller, Brooklyn Hageman, Paige Hanson, Alivia Spilde, Head Coach Danny Frisby-Griffin



**Head Coach:** Danny Frisby-Griffin

**Assistant Coaches:** Crystal Hanson, Jael Lundquist

**2019-20 Recap:** 2-19

**Key athletes lost:** Khloe Tie-man

**Key returning athletes:** Freshman Julia Trygstad (sec-

ond-leading scorer last year), junior Alivia Spilde (leading rebounder)

**Team strengths:** Our team has the desire to be better and we have set out objectives to get better each day

**Team weaknesses:** We need to significantly decrease our

turnovers per game and increase our shot-making accuracy and efficiency.

**Coach's comments:** "We're a young and inexperienced team. With that state, we're a resilient and determined team of players with the desire to be better than everyone expects us to be.

"Last year, we ended the season better than we started. This year, we'll continue building our team culture and program as we develop our basketball foundation.

"Our goal is to be better every day, every practice, every game," said Frisby-Griffin.



# Arlington Boys' Basketball

Back row – Jon Tawzer, Seth Madsen, Ryker Erstad, Chris Wallace, Mason Bunker, Caden Letsche, Britt Carlson

Front row – Dylan Stainbrook, Kaden Steffensen, Tommy Bacon, Riley Miller, Cole Madsen, Blake Madsen, Evan Fonseca

**Head Coach:** Michael Parry, 24th season

**Assistant Coaches:** Aaron King

**2019-20 Recap:** 20-3. Lost by a point in the game to go to state

**Key athletes lost:** Trey Ramstad, Casey Stegeman, Trevor Larsen, Chance Spilde, Jon Muhonnen



**Key returning athletes:** Ryker Erstad, Mason Bunker, Chris Wallace

**Team strengths:** Right now we need to improve in every area of the game.

**Team weaknesses:** Depth – we really need to devel-

op a lot of younger players throughout the year to be able to use them at the varsity level.

**Coach's comments:** "We lost a great group of kids from last year's team and also lost the majority of our scoring for

the team. We are focused this year on getting kids comfortable with new roles they have never had before at the varsity level and just focusing on working hard every day in practice and also improving every day," Parry said.

# Arlington Girls' Basketball

Front Row – Jaelyn Huntimer, Jolyssa Steffensen, Jordan Spilde, Ellisyn Vincent, Rachel Steffensen, Halley Miller

Middle Row – Addalyn Steffensen, Sony Johnson, Harley Johnson, Emma Spilde, Tanaya Weiss, Dani Carlson

Back Row – Erin Haufschild, Grace Parry, Dakota Flanery, Hadley Carlson, Brenley Goebel, Elizabeth Rowen

**Head Coach:** Tara King, 7th years

**Assistant Coaches:** Clarissa Leiseth, Cooper Heiser

**2019-20 Recap:** 12-10

**Key athletes lost:** Makayla Nelson, Cecili Carlson, Jael Lundquist.

**Key returning athletes:** Junior Hadley Carlson.



All-DVC. Averaged a double-double of 15 points and 10 rebounds. ... Junior Grace Parry and freshman Harley Johnson (6.9 ppg, 2.5 rpg)

**Team strengths:** Work ethic

**Team weaknesses:** Experi-

ence, size

**Coach's comments:** "After losing three starters from last year, we will be looking to fill those spots and getting some younger players experience. Although we will be young, we have a group of

girls that are committed and bring their best every opportunity they get. This mentality will go a long ways and is something we are all looking forward to and building on throughout the season," said Heiser.



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# Elkton-Lake Benton Girls' Basketball

Front row: Julia Drietz, Hannah Krog, Brooklyn Nielsen, Rachel Krog, Zoe Greer, Ella Mae Grooters  
Back row: Tevan Erickson, Emily Robbins, Aubrey Schindler, Malayna Hemmen, Kailyn Drietz, Jenae Christensen, Ella Crofutt



**Head Coach:** Ervin Gebhart, 1st year back at the helm

**Assistant Coaches:** Dan Robbins

**2019-20 Recap:** 1-20

**Key athletes lost:** Ashley Skeels

**Key returning athletes:** Aubrey Wirth (DNP last year), Jesse Busselman, Martina Creixall (foreign-exchange student), Julia Dri-

etz (All-DVC HM), Hannah Krog, Brooklyn Nielsen, Rachael Krog.

**Coach's comments:** "We have a good group of freshman coming in that will vie for playing time. The girls are very athletic and will

be fun to work with. We need to work on becoming better shooters and taking care of the basketball when being pressured. It will be a big learning curve for them early on. If they can buy into the

program and work on the things I mentioned they could become very competitive by the end of the season. I'm excited to get back on the sidelines and working with these girls," said Gebhart.

# Kingsbury County Wrestling

Front row – Blake Jennings, Lane Albrecht, Gannon Gilligan, Kaleb Johnson, Lane Jensen, Kahne Hansen, Payton Botkin, Marshall Holtz, Breyten Johnson, Easton Ruml. Middle row – Caden Murphy, Ethan Johnson, Tucker Andersen, Dylan Zell, Griffin Clubb, Connor Johnson. Back row – Coach Steve Gilbertson, Luke Steffensen, Matthew Steffensen, Alec Dobson, Kain Gilligan, Nate Kersting, Dylan Singrey, Caleb Clark, Lane Holland, Cael Schoenfelder, coach Mark Geary, Coach Mike Johnson. Not pictured Sheldon Balderston and Connor Callahan.



**Head Coach:** Steve Gilbertson, 28th year

**Assistant Coaches:** Mike Johnson

**2019-20 Recap:** 9-1 in duals. Placed second in region.

**Key returning athletes:** Senior Alec Dobson (fifth at 138 pounds at state), Dylan Zell (seventh at 120). Other state qualifiers – Kain Gilligan (106), Dylan Singrey

(152/160), Matthew Steffensen (132/138), Owen Kerkvliet (220/285).

**Coach's comments:** "We have a good deal of experience returning. We would like to turn that experi-

ence into improvement and success. Our depth is good with plenty of battles in the practice room which should translate into a more competitive program," said Gilbertson.



# Elkton-Lake Benton Boys' Basketball

**Head Coach:** Steve Erickson, 14th season at ELB

**Assistant Coaches:** Mark Harming, Ethan Pearson

**2019-20 Recap:** 16-7 (5-3 DVC). Beat Ethan and Hanson to qualify for SoDak 16 before falling to Viborg-Hurley

**Key athletes lost:** Grant DeRuyter, Bryson Sik

**Key returning athletes:** Matthew Nibbe (All-DVC) – leading scorer and rebound-

er; Marcus Harming (HM All-DVC) – leader in assists; Aiden Erickson – third on team in scoring, rebounding and assists, first in steals); Mason Gaumer; Miles Harming; Logan Kuehl; Isaac Jaack.

**Team strengths:** We have an experienced group. Many of them have been on varsity and playing since eighth and ninth grade. We feel like we have a good mix of inside/outside players

and versatility that will allow us to mix up our looks on both ends of the floor.

**Team weaknesses:** Our overall consistency day in and day out. We need to play at a high level each day in practice and be able to translate that to games.

**Coach's comments:** "We are excited about the season and the group of kids we have. They are a really selfless group and compete extremely

hard for each other. It is a close knit group and that translates to their play on the floor on both ends. They are willing to do what is asked of them and not question what's in it for them other than being a part of a successful team. We think if we can obviously stay healthy throughout the season and develop our consistency on both ends, we will have a solid year," said Erickson.

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# Estelline/ Hendricks Girls' Basketball

Front Row – Heidi Nicola, Madelyn Ebbers, Emily Johnson, Kate Wegner, Kylie Beare, Jordan Saathoff.

Back Row – Karol Ramirez, Madalene Williams, Maycee Faehnrich, Kenzy Beare, Danielle Hawley, Julie Williams, Natalie Ebbers, Emma Pierce, Brooke Johnson,



**Head Coach:** Mike Evert

**Assistant Coaches:** Jim Rieger, Kaylee Faehnrich

**2019-20 Recap:** 13-9.

Lost to De Smet in Region 3B semifinals.

**Key athletes lost:** Sophie Johnson, Kaylee Faehnrich, Cora Hofer, Faith Van Meveren

**Key returning athletes:** Kylie Beare, Kaylee Johnson, Jordan Saathoff, Emily Johnson, Jesade

Siverson

**Team strengths:** We have some good experience coming back and some younger athletes that have good potential. We need to get the younger ones up to speed quickly and into the mix and hopefully we will gel at the right time

**Team weaknesses:** We have to build an effective bench. Our newcomers have to step up and contribute as soon as possible. Also, covid restrictions are hurting our ability to use all of our personnel

**Coach's comments:** "We are guardedly optimistic that we will

have a good season. We have some good returning letterwinners back and the girls put in some good work during the offseason. It could take a while to find our groove and if our shooting gets better, we could be very competitive during the playoffs," said Evert."

# Estelline/ Hendricks Boys' Basketball

**Head Coach:** Andy Hansen, 8th season

**Assistant Coaches:** Tim Cass, Brandon Krein

**2019-20 Recap:** 6-14

**Key athletes lost:** Marcis Hausman, Spencer Lutz

**Key returning athletes:** Riley Benning, Jacoby Flegel, Peyton Reitz, Braxton Saathoff, Joe McAninch, Mattix Hausman, Dawson Bury



**Team strengths:** Experience and 3-point shooting

**Team weaknesses:** Lack of size, rebounding

**Coach's comments:**

"We bring back seven players with lots of varsity playing experience. We had lots of success shooting the ball from 3-point

range last year but will have to work on being able to score from the in the paint as well this year," said Hansen.



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## Flandreau Girls' Basketball

Front row – Bella Pavlis, Cassidy Keith, Teiloni Hardy, Abby Schoeberl and Grace Krull. Back row – Maria Parsley, Lizzy Pavlis, Lily Klein, Tiffany Taylor and Claire Sheppard. Not pictured is Hayden Neises.



The Flandreau girls' basketball team is looking solid again in 2020-21.

The Fliers qualified for state a year ago but the tournament was canceled due to COVID-19. They went 21-2 and won the Big East Conference and Lake Central Conference crowns.

"We again play a highly competitive schedule – we are in two strong conferences, we will play a number of ranked opponents and will get Classic experiences," said sixth-year coach Megan Severtson.

"With all the uncertainty this season brings, our priority is to focus on being ready to play our best basketball come time for regions.

"Our team is a good mix of upper and underclassmen who are competitive and still on the hunt to take Flandreau to a state tournament."

Junior Maria Parsley was an All-LCC and second-team All-BEC se-

lection last year.

Junior Bella Pavlis and freshman Claire Sheppard were both All-BEC honorable mentions.

Also returning are seniors Cassidy Keith and Teiloni Hardy, freshman Lily Klein and junior Lizzie Pavlis.

Severtson listed her team's strengths as "athleticism and length. Also, the ability to play a

number of defenses."

She said "depth and big-game experience" are their weaknesses.

The Fliers graduated 2020 Brookings Register Player of the Year Hannah Parsley, a two-time All-State selection. They also lost Tishara Hardy (All-BEC, All-LCC), Kennedy Headrick and Shalyn Peters.

## Flandreau Wrestling

Justin Klein and Teague Bergjord. Middle, Caleb Pitsenberger, Caleb Dietrich, Dylan Christenson, Brayden Wiese and Tanner Christenson. Back, Kolby Peters, Chase Reed and Karter Headrick. Not pictured is Tathan Headrick.



The Fliers fill most of their weightclasses in 2020-21.

Chase Reed, a junior, highlights the returning crew as a state qualifier a year ago.

Juniors Tathan Headrick, Tanner Christenson and Caleb Dietrich, sophomores Kolby Peters, Caleb Pitsenberger and Gary Moose, and eighth-grader Karter Headrick are also back in the lineup.

Seventh-graders Justin Klein and Teague Gergjord are new to the varsity squad.

Team strengths: "Of the athletes we have out we have quite of few that will contend to place in most tourna-

ments and on the brink of making the state tournament if they take that next step in their development. We have a lot of TEAM oriented athletes out that will do what it takes to help the team," said coach Derek Genzlinger.

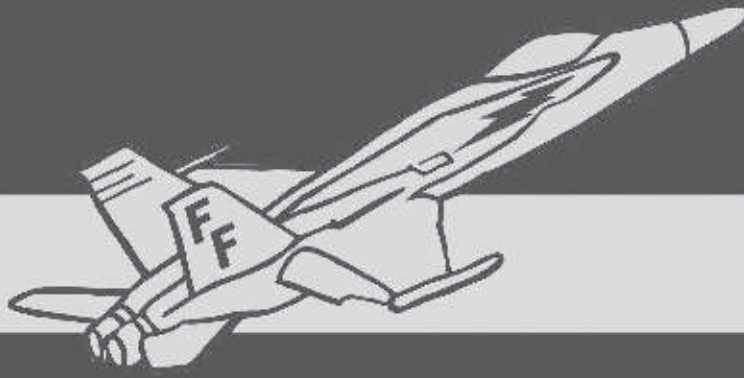
Team weaknesses: "With limited numbers it will be tough to contend in a lot of duals due to the number of forfeits we will give up. With the crazy year we are on any sort of injury

or sickness will also greatly affect our team with the lack of depth."

Final comments: "I am very excited about this year's group of athletes. We return Chase at 220 and he should push to place this year at the state tournament. I look for Brayden Wiese, who is going down to 106 this year, Tathan Headrick, and Kolby Peters to take that next step and qualify for the state tournament this year as

well. After that I am hoping to see a lot of development from our younger guys. With that development we will look to get more out of our region from there. We wrestle in the toughest region in the state, so it is always highly competitive to get kids to the state tournament. I expect all our athletes to compete extremely hard every match."





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# Flandreau Boys' Basketball

Maverick LeBrun, Paul Parsley, Lars Dailey, Mario Bonilla, Alex Anderson, Brant LeBrun, Matthew Gassman, Tyce Ryan, Talon Hardy and Sam Gassman. Back, Michael Tollefso, Isiah Fisherman, Tash Lunday, Mitchell Pulscher, Chase LeBrun, Taryn Ukestine, Liam Streitz and Tanner Reed.



The Fliers' boys' basketball team has a solid starting five entering the 2020-21 campaign.

They're led by Tash Lunday – a 6-foot-5 junior.

He earned Class A All-State honors a year ago in addition to being named All-Big East Conference and All-Lake Central Conference.

Lunday averaged 22.3 points and 11.6 rebounds as a sophomore.

Also returning are senior Taryn Ukestine and juniors Alex Anderson, Chase LeBrun and Liam Streitz.

Coach Brendan Sheppard listed the

team's strengths as experience, six and competitiveness and depth as the weakness.

"We will have a starting five that has years of experience and continues to grow and get stronger," the sixth-year

head coach added. "If we can keep our core group healthy and develop some depth we should be a contender later in the season.

"The work ethic and desire to compete will make this a fun group to coach.



Tash Lunday



Reagan Johnson



# Colman-Egan Boys' Basketball

Front row – Jesse Baumberger, Jonny Keyes, Jackson Wright, Carson Quale, Tobey Lee. Middle Xander Mallory, Sawyer Uhing, Logan Voelker, Austin Gullickson, Easton Williamson. Back row – Camden Schmidt, Levi Baumberger, Gavin Costine, Ryan Voelker, Ben Zwart, Brandon Pimental.



**Head Coach:** Scott Hemmer, 3rd year

**Assistant Coaches:** Matt Nelson

**2019-20 Recap:** 11-12, lost to No. 1 De Smet in SoDak 16

**Key athletes lost:** Dalton Voelker (All-State), Chase Hemmer, Nate Tolley, Ty Hiller

**Key returning athletes:** Sophomore Camden Schmidt is the

only returning starter. Junior Austin Gullickson, and sophomore Ben Zwart saw limited action last year. They are joined by a promising group of sophomores and also the return of se-

nior Ryan Voelker to the squad.

**Team strengths:** All the kids are very hard workers and wanting to get better every single day.

**Team weaknesses:** We don't

have much size and are very young.

**Coach's comments:** "If the kids keep working and striving to get better, it is going to be an enjoyable year for us."



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