



SPRING **SPORTS**



PREVIEW 2023



THE
Brookings
Register

Building relay teams provides challenge for Bobcats



Chris Schad/Register

1st Row (left to right): Joey Fitzpatric, Ernest Ting, Wyatt Hockett, Adam Anderson, Jordan Mofle, Cody Vertin, Sam Conrad, Griffin Suarez, Cole Skyberg, Griffen Barrels. **2nd Row:** Jacob York, Dagi Thomas, Cole Hackett, Josiah Thomas, Brayden Schreiber, Gavin Anderson, Eli Hawles, Mason Mathis, Christ Bwangog, Charlie Bisgard. **3rd Row:** Ashton Baker, Carson Loehr, Michael Nelson, Miles Even, Marco Springman, Luke DeRynck, Owen Hoppe, Blake Kannegieter, Jack Griggs. **4th Row:** Luke Hanson, Cade Christianson, Owen Burns, Nash Burdick, James Fitzpatrick, Gus Armenta, Seth Vogt, Weston Baker, Shane Harming.

By CHRIS SCHAD
The Register

BROOKINGS – The Brookings Bobcats have the same goals this year as you would see from your local track team. They want to field a competitive team early in the season and with the goal of peaking heading into the Eastern South Dakota Confer-

ence and state meets.

But there's always a starting point and this spring, the Bobcats will have to find new athletes willing to step up on a roster that includes 135 kids but approximately 70 athletes competing for the first time.

"We're just trying to get organized, get some good workouts in, and get our training program

going," Brookings head track coach Jason Sebern said. "We're really trying to establish a base of training over the next couple of weeks and a good base training can really set you up for success."

One of the key components the Bobcats will figure out is who will fill out their relay teams. The boys 4x400 relay team fin-

ished fifth at last year's Class AA state meet with a time of 3:27.37 but after losing Talon Everding and Nick Diersen to graduation, the Bobcats will have to lean on senior Sam Conrad and sophomore Cole Hockett as returning members of that team.

Conrad believes some fast athletes could help on the team, but their lack of experience run-

ning a 400-meter race will be a challenge to compete this season.

"It's a lot different than you think it is," Conrad said. "Just messing up one of those hand-offs and being off-kilter in the race hurts, so experience will be a big challenge for us."

See: Track & Field Page 3

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Chris Schad/Register

1st Row (left to right): Tayla Dobrenski, Elise Lefters, Jessica Fourney, Alaina Evans, Sofia Dvergsten, Aletha Baker, Grace Prusa, Grace Kuchlong, Maddix Archer. **2nd Row:** Emily Schulte, Kennedy Nemitz, Anja Toft, Emmy Kjelden, Camryn Vermeer, Taryn Richter, Sophia Schmit, Nevaeh Strohfus, Ava Petterson, Mischa Janssen, Amber Brockberg. **3rd Row:** Clara Delbridge, Amari Ward, Kate Jewett, Brooklyn Ballis, Maya Gent, Shae Lefers, Jaixai Reineke, Jennavieve York, Lily Murray, Gabby Bryant, Maya Hansen. **4th Row:** Logan Smidt, Tess Burns, Gracie Adamson, Madison Kepner, Addison Smetana, Katie Marshall, Grace Vostad, Sloan McLagan, Emma Schaefer, Bailey Tekrony. **5th Row:** Carolina Schefers, Allie Schefers, Reece Christianson, Sophie Loomis, Luci Siemonsma, Claire Bisgard, Cadence Davier, Joey Bear Hill Ariana Funderburg. **6th Row:** Your Akon, Carmen Neiswonger, Shauna Pederson, Anon Zokou, Paige Holt, Johanna Steinlicht, Cloë Barber, Savannah Barber, Julissa Peterson.

Sebern also acknowledged the challenge of rebuilding his relay teams while leaning on Conrad to help anchor the team.

"We're trying to get that team put back together again because we're missing a couple of key components," Sebern said. "But we think we can be competitive in that 4x400 and maybe a medley relay and we're going to need Sam to be a big part of that."

The relay teams are a similar challenge on the girls' side where Maddix Archer and Tayla Dobrenski will be standouts. Archer has previous experience in the 4x100 and 4x200 relay teams, but Dobrenski, who is also committed to the track team at Northern State University, will be in her first extensive relay action since middle school.

"I ran with the [4x100 team]

a little bit last year but just the handoffs and timing, it's just something that I don't do in my individual events," Dobrenski said. "It's the only thing where I have a different role."

Archer also noted that getting the handoffs down will be a key element in building the relay team.

"When it comes to handoffs and warming up, we have to get focused before the relay,"

Archer said. "I feel like it's just having that team unity and you have to get close to each other to succeed."

While building the relay teams will be one storyline, so will the Bobcats' success in other events. Dobrenski finished third at the state meet in the high jump last season while Archer qualified for the state meet last year in the 100-meter dash.

"We're going to try to really

focus on the events that we're good at," Sebern said. "We're going to try to do the best we can in those events and put our best athletes in good situations. ...We don't want to have any injuries our setbacks but we want to start building and getting some momentum going so that we can continue to train and start competing here toward the end of the month."

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Bobcats' outlook 'unknown' but optimistic heading into 2023

By CHRIS SCHAD
The Register

BROOKINGS – The Brookings Bobcats had a successful year in 2022, earning the third seed in the South Dakota state tournament and hosting a state regional. But heading into this season, they have plenty of questions that need to be answered.

“This year’s outlook is very, very unknown,” Bauer said. “And it’s unknown for a lot of reasons.”

Brookings lost nine seniors from last year’s team and will be relying on a cast of new faces to keep their winning tradition alive. Seniors Zach Struck, Nathan Lease and Justin Cofell are three players that will have to shoulder a lot of that load and will look to build off strong 2022 seasons.

“Those guys were vital to our team last year and they’re going to be more vital to our team this year,” Bauer said. “They all play very good defense and they all had good summers last year.”

Cofell was one of the top hitters for the Bobcats a year ago and wound up being one of the best hitters on the Brookings amateur team as a junior. Nathan Lease was tremendous on the mound including a complete game in the semifinals of last year’s amateur tournament and Struck is projected to be this year’s starting shortstop.

Behind the trio of seniors is a group of juniors that also has a lot of talent. Bauer believes that Breck Hirrschoff could have a better year at the plate and offensively after a strong sophomore season and Austin Clark could look to improve after winning five games last season.

Together, the Bobcats are a team that should be able to compete offensively but has their questions on the mound. Clark



Chris Schad/Register

Front Row (Left to Right): Owen Schneider, Jared Erickson, Justin Cofell, Austin Clark, Nolan Miles, Jack Merritt, Tate Helmbolt. **Back Row:** Dawson Gross, Addison Ronning, Nathan Lease, Tyson Antonen, David Brink, Zach Struck, Breck Hirrschoff, Sam Johnson.

and Lease will be two players that will be counted on to make up for the loss but Bauer believes it will be a team effort to make the transition.

“We lost a lot of innings last year and we’re going to rely on a couple of starters to carry a lot of things for us,” Bauer said. “Hopefully, they’ll be able to carry those innings as soon as we can start playing games outside.”

The ability to play games is in question after the excessive amount of snow from last winter. While Bauer acknowledges that all teams are going through

the challenge of practicing in gyms and other facilities while the fields thaw out, it provides another issue for a team looking to round into form.

“We’re a little bit behind but we have a lot of players with some skill who are going to get an opportunity which some of those guys are really going to want,” Bauer said. “They’re excited. They know what their role is going to be and they’re excited to showcase that to us. Whether it’s in practice or a game but we’ve been really pleased with where we are development-wise heading into the year.”

The Bobcats will need to be at their best to compete in an ESD conference that is loaded with talent. Sioux Falls Jefferson and Sioux Falls Roosevelt have been traditional baseball powers and Sioux Falls Lincoln won the state tournament a year ago. Braun also pointed out that several other programs in the state such as Harrisburg are on the rise.

But even with the lack of experience, the Bobcats have a championship pedigree. Brookings won the Junior Legion state title two seasons ago and finished in second place last year

with many of the same players. While Brookings is down to 11 players due to injuries suffered during the winter sports season, they believe they have enough to compete for a state title.

“Historically, baseball is a very good sport for [Brookings],” Bauer said. “When you go back and look at the state championships we’ve won in recent years and how highly competitive we are each year, these players look at that as a challenge. They want to do whatever they can to just compete hard and leave it out on the field.”

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Bobcat golf hopes 'special bond' leads to improvement in 2023

By CHRIS SCHAD
The Register

BROOKINGS – The game of golf is all about improvement and sometimes that improvement isn't shown in the scorecard.

For the Brookings Bobcats, they may not have posted the final numbers they wanted at the end of last season, finishing 12th at the Class AA state meet but their growth throughout the year was enough for it to be deemed as a success.

Heading into 2023, the Bobcats are focused on building on that progress and hope that the confidence leads to another step forward.

"I think they became more confident as they played in a number of tournaments," Sebern said of her team's experience. "You've been there and you've met a lot of the other players so you feel a bit more confident and comfortable in that situation. ...It just helps you calm down and as you know it's a mental game, so I think if you're comfortable in your groups, these things play out a little better."

One aspect that has helped the Bobcats become more comfortable is the familiarity as a group, which leads to a level of calmness as they

play their rounds.

"We're very supportive of each other," Fuls said. "I feel like we see each other at different holes and we definitely get the best out of each other because our attitudes change and we can talk about stuff that's not even about golf and have fun."

The Bobcats lost some experience with Ashton Austreim, Grace Fickbaum and Paige Meilke leaving due to graduation, but they have some experienced upperclassmen with junior Delilah Fuls and senior Kyra McClemans. With fellow returners Jaden Devine and Miyah Foerster, McClemans believes it will be another aspect that will get the most out of this team.

"I like having all the returners on the team because it will help us be close," McClemans said. "Especially for varsity, it's good to be really close. To have the returners and to add in some of the younger players, we have a family aspect."

That feeling of family helped the Bobcats stay on the course throughout the summer as they not only looked to improve their game but have fun doing it.

"Some of them did better than others as far as playing holes, but I do feel like the girls get along and they like to play together," Sebern.



Chris Schad/Register

1st Row (from left to right): Cora Eidem, Autumn Malmberg, Lilian Beringer, Avery Kreie, Allie Fuhrman, Avery Melius. **2nd Row:** Madeline Enderson, Isabel Gundvaldson, Tavyn Everding, Andra Schwinler, Carmen Bertrand, Maddie Jongeling, Josie Bertrand, Tatum McEntee, Tyra Ullom. **3rd Row:** Taylor O'Neil, Jaden Devine, Kyra McClemans, Delilah Fuls, Tatum Thompson, Lauren Bortnem, Brooklyn Burris, Lauren Jones, Kamryn Streich. **Not pictured:** Zoe Tetzlaff, Grace Boltjes, Alexia Giessinger, Miyah Foerster, Aurelia Fallis, Anya Woodall, Abby Mohs, Aubrey Knutzen, Kayanna Rohl, Camryn Lounsbery, Christina Messerli, Libby Merrit, Tyanna McClemans.

"The more you practice in the summer, the better you get in the fall so I would say having that experience definitely helps."

While the McClemans and Fuls admitted they would like to work on their putting and short game, Sebern says that her team has plenty of skills to provide a baseline for this season. It's just a matter of having the confidence to back it up.

"Their skills are pretty good and they've played for quite some time," Sebern said. "I think sometimes when you get out there and on your own and you might hit a bad shot or just not feel confident, it can crumble quickly. But they really need to be confident because they have great skills."

While Sebern would like to see the team spend more time on the course, she notes that improve-

ment will come as the season moves along and she expects the same to happen this season.

"Towards the end of most years, we have gotten better," Sebern said. "We just need to have that fifth or sixth player that can bring in some lower scores so you're not just relying on the top four."

The Bobcats are scheduled to open their season at the Harrisburg Invitational on Apr. 13.



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Bobcat tennis hopes strength in numbers leads to improvement



Chris Schad/Register

Front Row (From L to R): Jean-Claude St. Pierre, James Park, Ayden Asche, Caylon Peters, Braylon Peters, Ben Button. **Back Row:** Stephen Anawski, Andrew Hahn, Xavier St. Pierre, Carson Kreie, Brody Bachman.

By CHRIS SCHAD
The Register

BROOKINGS – The Brookings Bobcats had a tough season in 2022, finishing with a 1-14 dual record and last-place finish in the Eastern South Dakota Conference last year but with a stable of kids coming out for the team and returning players with varsity experience, head coach Brian Dobbs believes there is room for improvement this year.

“We have four guys returning for varsity and sometimes you might just have one or two,” Dobbs said. “We’d love for more people to have var-

sity experience, but that’s our strength coming into the season.”

Senior Ayden Asche leads the way for the Bobcats as he returns as the team’s No. 1 player from last year. Sophomore Braylon Peters also returns as the No. 2 player while Senior James Park and sophomore Carson Kreie will fill out the top of the lineup.

The challenge for the Bobcats will be to fill out the fifth and sixth spots. The good news is that they’ll have plenty of options but few have the experience at the top of the lineup.

“We just need to improve in

court time and playing experience,” Dobbs said. “These guys did a good job of playing last summer and we have a handful of guys that did a lot of playing in the summer, but what we need to do is try to get more of our kids on the court during the summer months. That’s one area where we can definitely improve.”

Two players that have spent plenty of time on the court are sophomores Jean-Claude Pierre and Xavier Pierre. The sophomore duo spent most of their time on the JV team last year but are looking to take the leap to the varsity level this season.

While both admitted there is some work to be done to achieve that goal, both know of what improvements need to be made to take the final spots.

“I want to primarily work on my consistency,” Xavier St. Pierre said. “Last year, I played pretty well at some points, but there were also times when I didn’t play as well. If I can maintain a high level for most of the time, I should be pretty set.”

Jean-Claude Pierre also noted that a better serve could help him thrive this season.

“I’m not the strongest person, so I would get killed on my

serve a lot,” Jean-Claude Pierre said. “If I can get stronger, I feel like I have a fighting chance to get more points.”

The emergence of the Pierre twins combined with the experience of returning players should be a boost for the Bobcats, who are looking to make a jump in the ESD this season.

“Our main goal is to improve our dual record,” Dobbs said. “We didn’t have our first win until late in the season last year and we didn’t do well at the ESD meet. We’d like to improve our placement and we would like to finish higher than what we have in recent years.”

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Bobcats looking forward to first sanctioned year of softball

By CHRIS SCHAD
The Register

BROOKINGS – Brookings head coach Emma Hardin remembers what it was like playing softball in South Dakota. As an unsanctioned sport, Hardin traveled the state with her parents to play in games for the South Dakota Renegades and even found time to squeeze in more games during the fall as she played for the volleyball team.

Entering her first season as a head coach, Hardin knows her team is in for a different experience. Softball will be a sanctioned sport in South Dakota for the first time this year and Hardin is excited not only to get to work but for her team to have a different experience on the field.

“I think they’re extremely excited,” Hardin said of her team. “It’s going to be really fun to get to have a fan base as they do for basketball games, football games and things like that where as there really hasn’t been that before for softball.”

Hardin has plenty of experience, becoming a four-time state champion with the Renegades and an All-ESD Team



Chris Schad/Register

Front Row (From L to R): Olivia Hove, Mesa Torgrude, Addy Bortnem, Macaulley Coble, Megan Wadsworth, Ava Sandine, Madison Pantzke, Maya Erickson, Kylie Moe. **Second Row:** Layla Erickson, Keisher Cushing, Brooklyn Beuthin, Zoe Miller, Kami Erickson, Morgan Norgaard, Tess Pantzke, Ava Couser, Brynn Flemming, Ellie Johnson. **Back Row:** Quinn Kurtenbach, Reece Christianson, Kate Jewett, Tessa Twedt, Gracie Adamson, Tess Burns, Kymber Buys, Sydney Bebensee, Morgan Linstad, Riley Schwinler. **Not pictured:** Addison Sneer

member as a senior in 2017 before graduating from Brookings in 2018. She went to pitch for South Dakota State while pursuing a degree in elementary

education and now is looking to pass along her knowledge to the Bobcats.

“I’m extremely excited because I get to share my knowledge with kids from my hometown,” Hardin said. “I also get to start a program where there was nothing before as far as a sanctioned sport. It definitely means a lot to me.”

Just because the Bobcats are in their first season doesn’t mean that they lack experience. Hardin believes that Brookings has several

key juniors and seniors on this team that have been playing together, which helps the transition coming into this season.

“I’m kind of an outsider because they’ve been playing together forever,” Hardin joked. “They know how to work and I’m excited that I’m able to share what I know with them and help them step their game up.”

One player that could benefit is pitcher Gracie Adamson, who figures to be the Bobcats’ primary pitcher in the circle this season and has plenty of speed and movement on her pitches. Another is Morgan Linstad, who is set to be the Bobcats’ catcher and has committed to play softball at Concordia University-Moorhead next year.

With plenty of juniors that Hardin believes have a lot of leadership qualities, the Bobcats have a veteran-laden team that should have the talent to compete in the ESD. For now, they’ve been trying to put their team together while also navigating the annual challenge of finding a place to practice.

“Right now we’re working on a lot of hitting because we have indoor facilities that we’re able to use,” Hardin said. “We’re going to start working a lot on communication but it’s been hard to take a lot of ground balls. So it’s basically been hitting, pitching, and behind the scenes stuff like signs and things like that. I think that we have a lot of talent, though, and I think we will be able to compete in the ESD.”

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Andrew Holtan/Register

Brookings' Tayla Dobrenski jumps over a hurdle during a meet on April 26, 2022 in Brookings.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Brookings' Nathan Lease pitches the ball during a game against Pierre last season.

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Andrew Holtan/Register

Brookings' Delilah Fuls chips the ball during a tournament last season.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Brookings' Ayden Asche hits the ball during a match last season.



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Sioux Valley Track & Field



Jess Gatzke/Jae Ann Photography

Front row left to right: Ashley Bjerke, Kendra Hiltunen, Landree Wilson, Mercedeses VanderWal, Tia Glaus, Ashlyn Tangen, Rylee Behrens, Mollie Skipper, Ava VandeWeerd, Abby Haaland, Savana Guthmiller, Hailey Larson. **2nd row left to right:** Adison Renkly, Alexis Rust, Maggie Siegel, Isabelle Bloker, Porshia VanderWal, Keira Sprang, Machaela Gerasch, Lacey Langland, Sienna Weiss, Caitlin Russell, Brooke Knutson, Talya Vincent, Liberty Trygstad, Allie Hofer. **3rd row left to right:** Hunter Rose, Connor Gross, Hernan Millan, Oliver Vincent, Aiden Moe, Aidan Brower, Preston VanderWal, Caleb Murphy, Boden Schiller, Reihdir VanderWal, Chris Hornick. **4th row left to right:** Austin Siegel, Jakob Guthmiller, Clark Mullaney, Levi Loban, Donovan Rose, Matthew Field, Carson Wosje, Braden Danzeisen, Dubhlaonn Vermeulen, Blaine Schwartz, Mitch Guthmiller. **Not pictured:** Kayla Spillman, Keyra Kruse, Faith Johnson, Skylar Schwab, Skylar Trygstad, Brock Christopherson, Brody Haaland.

Head Coach's: Bill Vincet and Don Sutera

Assistant Coaches: Chad Guthmiller and Jaclyn Roach

2022 Recap: The Cossack boys had many strong performers last year and we are excited about the return of some strong relay teams that competed in last years state meet. We will build around the return of state meet qualifiers Boden Schiller, Connor Gross, Donovan Rose, Caleb Murphy, Brock Christopherson, Skylar Schwab, Jakob Guthmiller, Aiden Brower, & build

around them with many talent athletes within the program.

Won the Lake Central Conference on the girls' side and placed ninth at the State Meet.

Top Athletes Lost: We lost many talented athletes to graduation on the boys side. On the girls' side, we lost Kamryn Schwartz, Reagan Johnson and Kalista King.

Key Returners: Boden Schiller, Connor Gross, Donovan Rose, Caleb Murphy, Brock Christopherson, Skylar Schwab, Jakob Guth-

millier and Aiden Brower on the boys' side. Return Isabelle Bloker, who finished in third in the 3,200-meter run and fifth in the 1,600-meter run on the girls' side. Also return Adison Renkly, who finished third in the 100-meter hurdles and fifth in the triple jump. Others include Ashley Bjerke, Caitlin Russell, Liberty Trygstad and Talya Vincent.

Team Strengths: Should have some good depth with a large number of kids participating in Track & Field this season. Have a number of good athletes with expe-

rience and if they continue to improve throughout the season we should be able to make a run at both conference titles.

Coaches Comment's: "We are excited for the season. The Cossacks want to build on the strong performances that we were seeing at the end of last year," Vincet said.

"I think we have good numbers and a good group of experienced girls to build around and hope to have another competitive season," Sutera said.



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Sioux Valley Golf



Jess Gatzke/Jae Ann Photography

Front Row (L to R): Riley Stirling, Lillie Noble, Hayden Mohn, Aurora Costantino. **Back Row:** Coach Sherry Holderby, Caitlyn Cradduck, Haylee Bohnet, Keyra Kruse, Laryn Stevens, Kamryn Gunderson, Macy Bohnet.

Head Coach: Sherry Holderby (18 years)

Assistant Coaches: None
2022 Recap: Lake Central Conference champions. Won the Madison Invitational and were Runner-Up in both the Big East Conference and Region Tournament.

Top Athletes Lost: Julia

Steffensen
Key Returners: Laryn Stevens, who was LCC All-Conference, BEC All-Conference and a State participant. Haylee Bohnet, who was All-BEC and a State participant. Caitlyn Cradduck, who was BEC All-Conference and a State participant. Keyra Kruse,

who was a State participant.
Team Strengths: Have good numbers this season which will create camaraderie, competition and a fun environment. Have four golfers with State Tournament experience.

Coaches Comment's: Weather will delay outside practice and competitions,

making the season condensed. It will challenge the girls to have their golf games to be tournament with limited time on the course to prepare. We hope to finish high in both conferences and qualify as a team for State.

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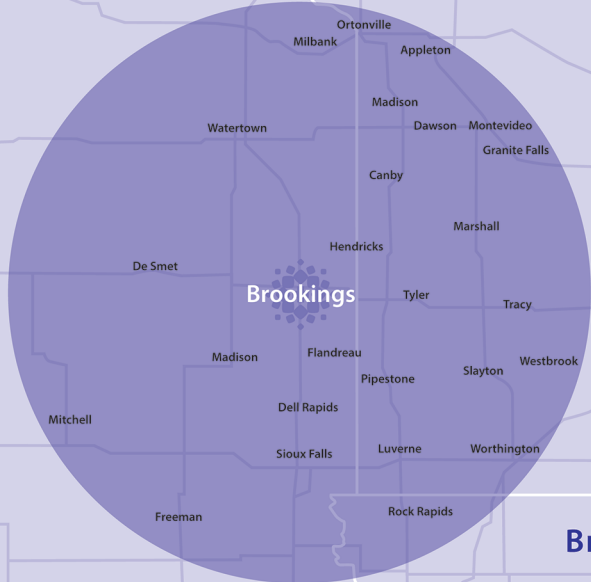


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Andrew Holtan/Register

Sioux Valley's Adison Renkly competes in the triple jump during a meet last season.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Sioux Valley's Caitlyn Craddock admires a shot during the Sioux Valley Invite last season.

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Andrew Holtan/Register

Sioux Valley's Donovan Rose jumps over a hurdle during the Sioux Valley Invite last season. The Cossack track & field team will begin the 2023 season on April 3 in Brookings.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Deubrook's Kadence Bowne (left) and Brook Koopatschek run a relay race during last season.



South Dakota Public Broadcasting

The Colman-Egan track & field team poses with the first place trophy after winning State in 2022.

Deubrook Area Track & Field



Courtesy Photo

BOYS

Head Coach: Brad DeBeer
Assistant Coaches: Rachelle DeBeer, Paul Ekern, Haley Lunden and Lucas Trooien.

2022 Recap: Ran in Class A last season and had a terrific State Meet placing four relay teams in the top-six. Also set school records in four of those relays.

Top Athletes Lost: Parker Crooks

Key Returners: Trevan Grimsrud, Landen Johnson, Gavin Landmark, Jaxon Quail, JP Rogness, Jake Jorenby, Richie Meyer, Colin Bauman, Gunnar Trooien, Riley

Niehus, Dylan Rios, Devon Landmark, Nolan Petersen and Jace Vonacka.

Team Strengths: I think we have a very good balance of sprinters and middle distance kids on the track.

Team Weaknesses: We will look to develop our jumpers and throwers as the season goes on, but we have some very talented kids in those events that could really make a difference for us late in the season.

Coaches Comment's: We have great depth from the 200-800 meters. I am hoping to develop a couple of hurdlers as the season gets

started. I would look for us to battle for the conference title.

GIRLS

Head Coach: Rachelle DeBeer (26 years)

Assistant Coaches: Brad DeBeer, Haley Lunden, Paul Ekern and Lucas Trooien

2022 Recap: Last year the Dolphins were in Class A and return to Class B this year.

Top Athletes Lost: Emma Sheffield and Carley Landmark

Key Returners: Brook Koppatschek, Ellie Olsen, Kylee Johnson and Kadence

Bowne return from our fifth place finish in the mile relay last year. Koppatschek and Miranda Moravetz have also medaled in previous State meets. Ellie Olsen came in eighth in the 300-meter hurdles at State last year. Other's include Catherine Klein, Akasha Gorecki, Kyarra Blum, who have all previously qualified for the State meet.

Team Strengths: We have some solid youth that we're excited about.

Coaches Comment's: We can't wait to use our new track to practice on and we can't wait for the snow to leave.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Deubrook Area's Jake Jorenby competes in the long jump during a meet at the Sanford Jackrabbitt Athletic Complex in Brookings last season.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Deubrook Area's Trevan Grimsrud runs during a meet at the Sanford Jackrabbitt Athletic Complex last season.



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Arlington Track & Field



Head Coach: Tim Boeck (30 years)

Assistant Coaches: Nikki VanBockern, Tara King and Kelsey Hoff.

2022 Recap: Girls placed second in the region. In the State Meet Hadley Carlson placed seventh in the 100-meter hurdles and placed first in the high jump. Chloe Raw

placed eighth in the 200-meter run.

Top Athletes Lost: Hadley Carlson.

Key Returners: Three boys competed in state last season in senior Evan Fonseca, sophomore Lance Kaufmann and junior Riley Miller. The girls had eight athletes compete at State in sophomore

Chloe Raw, sophomore Ad-die Steffensen, junior Harley Johnson, freshman Kae-lynn Ulschmid, Halley Miller and eighth grader Issie Steffensen. Others to look for are Jake Burns, Jaelyn Huntimer and Jo Steffensen.

Team Strengths: "We have a great group of kids that work hard and have good

goals for the season," Boeck said.

Team Weakness: Depth, especially on the boys' side.

Coaches Comment's: "We have a hard working bunch of boys and girls and we are very excited to see what each one of them will accomplish this season," Boeck said.

Arlington Golf

Head Coach: James Heflin (2nd year)

Assistant Coaches: Mike Parry

2022 Recap: Girls won the Castlewood Ladies Regional.

Top Athletes Lost: Nate Kersting

Key Returners: Junior Mesa Baldwin, sophomore Eli Vincent, junior Spencer Heflin, freshman Bryce Heflin and junior Andrew Tawzer.

Team Strengths: The boys have three returning starters and could place top five for the region.

Team Weaknesses: The girls have eight new golfers on the team.

Coaches Comment's: "I am looking forward to helping and watching a young team progress throughout the



season. My personal hopes are that all my players will develop a lifelong

love of the game," Heflin said.



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Arlington Softball

Head Coach: DeDe Schmidt (1st season)

Assistant Coaches: Tara King and Kelli VanOverbeke

2023 Outlook: This will be the first year Arlington has a team for softball. The Cardinals are expected to be in a competitive Class B.

Team Strengths: The girls come to practice will-

ing to work hard and wanting to learn more about the game of softball.

Team Weaknesses: Some of the girls haven't put on a glove in years or have never played fastpitch softball.

Coaches Comment's: I'm very excited for our season to start and to see where the season will take us.



Flandreau Boys Track & Field

Head Coach: Owen Parsley (6th year)

Assistant Coaches: Georgia Adolph, Blake Savey, Emma Peters, Lori Williams, Callie Martens, and volunteer Scott Ross.

2022 Recap: 2022 saw the boys first meet win and LCC win in nine years. Something exciting started with the guys' team that hadn't happened in a long time. This was accomplished by having a diverse team in all the throws, jumps, sprints, and distance events. We mustered together nine team points at the State A meet and finished 22 of 38 teams, our highest finish for the boys at the state meet since 2012.

Top Athletes Lost: Last season we lost six tremendous seniors with Alex Anderson and Tathan Headrick's blazing speed in the sprints, Liam Streitz's remarkable athleticism in the 300M hurdles, Chase Reed's impressive might in the shot put, Austin Kulm's significant versatility in distance and pole vault, and Mike Tollefson's noteworthy hops in the high jump.



Front Row L to R: Mason Brushbreaker Creighton Arnett, Gabe Frias, Kearys Asio, Brayson Gould, Jacob Hamilton, Logan Kontz, Jacob Mohr, Franklin Donis Castillo. **2nd Row:** Brett Poitra, Davien Schipper, Nathan Ross, Bim Asio, Zyann Artoz, Kobi Martin, Sam Schmidt, Nate Hobbie, Hayden Garcia, Wyatt Kontz. **3rd Row:** Gauge Ballard, Ben Kulm, Ben Ballard, Elijah Johnson, Nic Caple, Caleb Pitsenberger, Teague Bergjord, Asa Eastman, Lanz Dailey, Brenton Westberry, Kenton James. **Back Row L to R:** Braxten Julson, Anthony Pieper, Ethan Hoffman, Abe Streitz, Graysen Fox, Tanner Reed, Daniel Hobbie, Paul Parsley, Justin Cuautle, Tucker Hemmer. **Not pictured:** Jose Lopez, Dylan Schwieterman, Matthew Gassman, Trey Jaycox, Brendan Peterson, Micah Otto, Tayten Hammer.

Key Returners: Our returning young men consists of a hungry and noteworthy lineup starting with seniors Ethan Hoffman (5th in the 4X200 relay at State A) with the speedy sprints and Caleb Pitsenberger as javelin, shot, and discus captain of the Throw Show. Lanz Dailey hopes to pole vault his way to better heights and sophomore Paul Parsley hopes to prove his adaptability in the triple jump, high jump, 400, and other relays. Distance Destroyer dynamic

duo Tanner Reed and Brenton Westberry will continually strive for strong times in the 4X800 and open 1600, and hopefully another trip to the state meet.

Team Strengths and Weaknesses: After losing so many quality athletes from last season, many guys and gals this year will be in the starting spotlight of relays, open running events, and field events. But there's excitement and confidence in the fact that we have nothing to lose and ev-

everything to gain. This quality coaching staff hopes to aim for quality over quantity this year and to push athletes to new personal records.

Coaches Comment's: Our team theme is "Power, Love, Self-Discipline," a takeaway from 2 Timothy 1:7 and a reminder not to be afraid, but to instead use the abilities and spirit that God has given us, always competing at our best while supporting our teammates! Go Fliers!

Flandreau Softball

Head Coach: Ryan Mallinger (1st season)

Assistant Coaches: Nikki Nelson

2023 Outlook: Optimism is the team feeling. A lot of our girls have taken a few years off softball and there will be a learning curve as we try to find our stride as a unit. The girls are excited to see what they can accomplish in their first year.

Key Returners: We have good numbers for the first year of the program. 21 girls are on the roster, and we have 11 varsity players and 10 JV players.

Team Strengths: This team is one of the hardest working groups that I have seen. They are looking forward to taking on the challenges that will be put in front of them this season. There is also a family feel amongst these girls and this

will be evident once they step onto the field.

Team Weaknesses: One big weakness for this team will be the fact that a lot of our varsity players have never played softball with one another. There will be a lot of learning to trust each other and learning where their teammates excel as well as where they can improve. Our team will also be very young this year, so we will be counting on lots of underclassmen to play huge roles on this team.

Coaches Comment's: There is a lot of pride amongst the girls as they are the first ever Flandreau softball team. They are looking to do big things and put people on notice, not backing down from anyone. We plan to be the best version of ourselves by the time Region and SoDak 16 play begins.

Flandreau Golf

Head Coach: Brooke Pearson (2nd season)

Assistant Coaches: Matthew Knippling

2022 Recap: Keva Burshiem came in second at the State Tournament and won the Region Tournament.

Top Athletes Lost: Keva Burshiem

Key Returners: Clara Kelm and Madison Bushkofsky

Team Strengths: Our team has a positive attitude and know that we have room to improve. The girls know what areas they need to improve in. We are going to take our time indoors this beginning of the season and focus on the little technical things and transfer those to the course once we're able to get outside.

Coach Comments: Our girls play in a strong con-



ference with a lot of good competition. Unfortunately, this year we don't have a full team to compete in conference tournaments, but we do have a positive outlook for our individual results and are looking forward to improving this season.

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Flandreau Girls Track & Field

Head Coach: Owen Parsley (6th year)

Assistant Coaches: Georgia Adolph, Blake Savey, Emma Peters, Lori Williams, Callie Martens, and volunteer Scott Ross.

2022 Recap: Last season, our gals were runner up in the LCC and won the Region 2A, ultimately sending ten girls to the State Meet. We set many new marks in our school's top ten list.

Top Athletes Lost: In our sprints and mid-distance events, we'll miss the experience and leadership of Bella Pavlis and Maria Parsley. They leave missing pieces in our triple jump, 100-400 sprints, 300 hurdles, and a leg in the 4X800.

Key Returners: Seniors Jade Stone and Katherine Kulm return in the shot and discus. In the first year of the program, Klum also set our school pole vault record and hopes to improve that this year. In sprints, we will have freshman Ella Hoffman and junior mid-distance specialist Lily Klein returning their quickness to the team. For distance, state competitors freshman Faith



Front row L to R: Rhianna Abayon, Katherine Kulm, Emma Keith, Jasmine DeJesus, Miesha Pedraza-Feliz, Rosa Sanchez Fuentes, Mia Stone. **2nd row:** Karissa Nolan, Isabel Kulm, Yohana Cuautle, Hailieanne Schepel, Josie Hamilton, Nora Hamilton, Kiley Westberry, Ayashi Artoz, Fawn Frias. **3rd row:** Lily Williams, Rianna Redbear, Morning Glory Lovejoy, Morgan Kontz, Mya Nichols, Lyla Thompson, Marlene Burshem. **Back row:** Jade Stone, Dreamer Cournoyer, Claire Wegner, Adrianna Hanford, Hailey Lahr, Ella Hoffman, Lily Klein, Faith Wiese, and Morgan Sheppard. **Not Pictured:** Jazalyn Kampeska, Elodie Amdahl, Diamond Roy.

Wiese (school record holder in the 3200 and 8th in State Class A), sophomore Josie Hamilton, and 8th grader Kiley Westberry look to improve their times and proudly represent the Distance Destroyers. Sophomore Mya Nichols also hopes to leap to new heights in the high jump and sophomore Ayashi Artoz looks to land farther in the long jump pit as well this season.

Team Strengths and Weaknesses: After losing so many quality athletes from last season, many guys and gals this year will be in the starting spotlight of relays, open running events, and field events. But there's excitement and confidence in the fact that we have nothing to lose and everything to gain. This quality coaching staff hopes to aim for quality over quantity this year and to

push athletes to new personal records.

Coaches Comment's: Our team theme is "Power, Love, Self-Discipline," a takeaway from 2 Timothy 1:7 and a reminder not to be afraid, but to instead use the abilities and spirit that God has given us, always competing at our best while supporting our teammates! Go Fliers!

Estelline/Hendricks Track & Field

Head Coach: Jim Rieger

Assistant Coaches: Mike Evert, Hilary Suther and Monica Dorn

2022 Recap: Boys team finished second in the region track meet and qualified for State. Girls finished fifth in the Dakota Valley Conference and fourth at the Region meet.

Key Returners: Jon

Nefzger who had two fifth place finishes at State. Joseph McAninch, who was a state qualifier in the 400-meter run and the 4x800 meter relay. Mattix Hausman and Camden Hobbs were also a part of the 4x800 relay team. Matthew McAninch and Braxton Jongeling, who each throw.

On the girls' side, Sadie Johnson is back and she fin-

ished first in pole vault at State. Danielle Hawley is back and she came in first in the shot put. Madelyn Ebbers, Ellie Cruz, Emma Pierce and Claire Dagel run in the sprints.

Team Strengths: For the boys, it's middle distance and throws. For the girls, it's pole vault, jumps and throws.

Coaches Comment's: We

hope to see our junior athletes fill and improve throughout the year and be able to help out in some relays and individual events. Our core group of veterans is solid, including Sadie Johnson and Danielle Hawley, and we hope to qualify as many to the state meet as possible. It will be more challenging this year as we have moved up to class A.



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Elkton-Lake Benton Track & Field



Head Coach: Mark Harming (6th season)

Assistant Coaches: Kaleb Haas, Alyssa Brazil, Abbey Strait and Avery Savage

2022 Recap: The boys won the DVC as well as Region 2A. The girls competed by leaps and bounds last season. They were able to score a lot more points and were a competitive team.

Top Athletes Lost: Isaac Jaacks, Jack Hemmen, Riley Hunter, Miles Harming and

Cameron Lorden

Key Returners: Boys-Tanner Drietz (Long and Triple Jump), Blake DeVries (hurdles), Levi Jaacks (Middle Distance) Nate Timm (distance).

Girls - Kylie Ramlo (LJ and Middle Distance), Tevan Erickson (hurdles), Malayna Hemmen (Distance), Sydney DeVries (hurdles and sprints).

Team Strengths: The strength of the boys team

is the depth we have. We have a lot of athletes, and can fill most events with people. The strength of the girls team is that we have great experience in our top events, pretty much everyone is back from last year.

Team Weaknesses: The weakness for the boys is experience. We lost some very good legacy athletes. The weakness of the girls team is continuing to develop that depth at the Varsity

level, but we have a large number of young participants in junior high.

Coaches Comment's: Looking forward to another season coaching this group. We have very good numbers this year, so the main challenge is going to be finding the right events for the right people. We will continue to be a quality squad, and most importantly we want to enjoy our time.



Iroquois/Lake Preston Track & Field



Head Coach: Jalen Kaufman and Teresa Decker

Assistant Coaches: Brock Dufek and Scott Beehler

2022 Recap: New Co-Op
Top Athletes Lost: Josslyn Steffensen

Key Returners: Jake Larsen, Jonah Denison, Stella

DeKnikker, Toby Arbietter, Ashton Wienk, Bergen Woodcock, Nathan Enninga and Adison Moore.

Team Strengths: High

numbers

Team Weaknesses: First year Co-Op



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Colman-Egan Softball

Head Coach: Stormy Mette (1st year) out all of the kinks. Zoe and I are excited to navigate the

Assistant Coaches: Zoe Mortrude learning curves and creat the best program we can for

2023 Outlook: This is a brand new program for us, so we're looking to work our school. We can't wait to meet and get to know our team.



Flandreau/Colman-Egan/Chester Baseball

Head Coach: Mike Witte (7th season) been young the past three years.

Assistant Coaches: Jesse Bien **Team Weaknesses:** We shouldn't have have many weaknesses if we show up and play hard.

2022 Recap: Went 4-8. Beat Tea Area for the first time in Region play, but a lot of small mental errors hurt in key games.

Top Athletes Lost: Tash Lunday **Coaches Comment's:** Looking forward to the snow clearing so we can get out on the field and see what we have in a very strong region. I believe the last four state champions have come from our region with Dell Rapids, Tea and Lennox being in it. I see us finishing in the top five of our region.

Key Returners: Kolby Peters, who is the No. 1 starting pitcher and the clean up hitter. Tison Burgraff, who has great control behind the plate. Ethan Hoffman, who is a strong midfielder and haas quick speed at the top of the lineup.

Team Strengths: We have lot of senior leadership this year as we've



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Colman-Egan Track & Field

GIRLS

Head Coach: Julie Preheim (6th year)

Assistant Coaches: Chad Williamson and Katlyn Menzie

2022 Recap: 2022 was a great season for the girls. They won just about every track meet we attended, including Conference and Regions. Then they went on to win the State Track Meet for the second year in a row.

Top Athletes Lost: Mackenzie Hemmer won the 100-meter Hurdles, was on the winning 4x100 relay team, placed second in the triple jump, and was part of the Medley Team. She was a great asset to our team.

Key Returners: Reese Luze(12) – 2022 Class B Track MVP, first place at the State Track Meet in 4x800, 400 M, 800 M, second in 4x400. Daniela Lee(11) – first place at State Track Meet in the 100 M, 200 M, 4x100, and the 4x200. Lanie Mousel – first in 4x100 and 4x200, 12th in the long jump and she was on the Medley team as well. Brynlee Landis – first in 4x800 & 4x200 and on the second place 4x400



team. Presley Luze & Elaina Rhode were both part of the winning 4x800 and the 4x200 relay and the second place 4x400 team.

Team Strengths: We have a great group of girls that spend a lot of time working to improve their skills. We have a lot of veteran athletes that bring in some great experience. They are a very versatile group of girls that can step in and run many different races successfully.

Coaches Comment's: The last few seasons have been a lot of fun and we would like to continue that fun this season. We are hoping to see steady improvements

from our girls every meet, stay healthy, and be at our best come State Track Meet time. The girls know they have to put in the time and work hard. We have some spots to fill, so we will be trying people in different events all season hoping that we will have everyone in the right spots come State Track time.

BOYS

Head Coach: Chad Williamson (6th year)

Assistant Coaches: Julie Preheim

2022 Recap: 4x200 relay team came in four place at State. 4x100 team took

eighth place and Chris Lee finished in sixth in the 200-meter dash.

Top Athletes Lost: Austin Gullickson and Kelby Voelker

Key Returners: we return everyone that competed at the state track meet last year. Easton Williamson (100, 4x100 and 4x200), Ben Zwart (4x100 and 4x200), Logan Voelker (4x100 and 4x200), Chris Lee (100 and 200, 4x100 and 4x200) Jonny Keyes (alt in both relays)

Coaches Comment's: We will be competitive at every meet this year.

Colman-Egan Golf

Head Coach: Billy Stitz (6th season)

Assistant Coaches: Bodee Gross

2022 Recap: As a team, the boys won the Colman-Egan Invite in 2022, and individually, they had 32 regular season medalists, 24 of which were top 10 and 14 of them were top five. Five of those individuals won titles.

Key Returners: For the

girls, Berkley Groos, who finished 17th at State in 2022 after a 14th place finish in 2021. She medaled in all 10 meets in 2022 with a win at the ORR Early Bird and the Colman-Egan Invite.

For the boys, Sawyer Uhin, who finished in 27th at an abbreviated State Tournamnet las season. He came in second at both the ORR Early Bird and the

Colman-Egan Invite. Taylor Kriech will be a sophomore who has had back-to-back State appearances. In 2022 he won the Region 2B Tournament and medaled in all 10 regular season meets, including three individual championships.

Coaches Comment's: Our experienced golfers are perfect examples for our youth. Groos is exactly what the

younger girls on the team need to see on a day-to-day basis. Uhing, Kriech, Savannah Schmidt and Jack Whitehouse are golf addicts. They spend more time on the course than they do at home in the summers, which is what you want your leaders to be. Our school is in great hands for the future with these role models.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Brookings' Austin Clark swings at the ball during a game at Bob Shelden Field last season.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Brookings' Maddix Archer runs in the 300-meter run during a meet last season in Brookings.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Brookings' Braylon Peters follows through after hitting the ball during a match in the 2022 season.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Brookings' Jaden Devine prepares to putt during a tournament that was played last year.