



Greg Hooegeven photos/1208 boys hockey preview
The 2022-23 Luverne boys' hockey team includes five returning seniors, (from left) Ethan Langseth, Brock Behrend, Gavin Reisch, Brady Bork and Kaleb Hein.

Expectations are high for Cardinals boys' hockey team

By Greg Hooegeven
The Luverne High School boys' hockey team returns 21 skaters from last year's program, and head coach Phil Paquette said internal competition will improve the team play.
"Expectations are high coming off our success last year with our returning performers," he said.
The 2022-23 varsity roster consists of five seniors, eight juniors, seven sophomores and one ninth-grader.
In that roster they are returning all-conference selections senior Brock Behrend

"We are looking forward to the challenges and successes we can reach as a team."
— Phil Paquette, head boys' hockey coach

and junior Patrick Kroski, plus two honorable mention all-conference players, juniors Tyler Arends and Owen Sudenga.
Also returning are defensive leaders Ethan Langseth, a senior, and Henry Hartquist, a junior.
Last season the Cardinals finished 16-11. They were seeded third in the section, losing to eventual champion Mankato East.
Paquette said he hopes to build on last season and finish as section champions this year.
"We have more depth this year," he said.

Other juniors include defenseman Will Serie and forwards Elliot Domagala, Spencer Kracht and Tucker Dammann.
Sophomores on the roster are forwards Alex Schlosser, Jose Medina and Levi Gonnerman, defensemen Layke Miller and Sage Viessman, and defense/forwards Blaik Bork and Marcus Vortherms.
The lone ninth-grader on the roster is forward Maddux Domagala.

Boys hockey/see page 8B

Cardinals girls to be a powerhouse for 2022-23 season

By Greg Hooegeven
The Luverne girls' hockey team starts the 2022-23 season on a high note coming off a 23-5-0 previous season that ended with an appearance at the Minnesota State High School girls' hockey tournament.
The Cardinals beat New Ulm 3-2 in overtime to clinch the Section 3A Championship only to lose to South St. Paul 3-1 and River Lakes 4-2 in the finals.
Head coach Tony Sandbulte, now in his 15th year, said he's looking forward to building on a strong program and helping the younger players make adjustments to playing at the varsity level.
"We have the right group of leaders in place," he said. "And it will be exciting to see how they will help the underclassmen and gel as a team."
A strong core of players will be led by team captain Kamryn Van Batavia, senior forward, who signed to play hockey next year at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Assistant captains are Mallory Nelson, senior defenseman, and Mallory Von Tersch, senior goalie.
The 2022-23 Cardinal girls' hockey roster also consists of junior forward Anika Boll, sopho-



Greg Hooegeven photos/1208 girls hockey preview
Three seniors return to lead the 2022-23 Luverne girls' hockey program. They are (from left) Mallory Nelson, Mallory Von Tersch and Kamryn Van Batavia.

more forwards Payton Behr and Zariah Holmgren, freshmen forwards Paula Martinez, Ella Apel, Greta McClure and Hannah Woodley, and freshman goalie Emma Saarloos.
The six eighth-graders on the team include forwards Tenley Behr, Izzy Steensma, Marlee Nelson and defensemen Kassidy Saarloos,

Macie Edstrom and Rylee Kurtz.
The team includes seventh-grade forward Ellie Van Batavia, who has already seen playing time with her big sister, Kamryn.
"Playing with Kamryn and being on the same line as her has been a great start to my first year of varsity," Ellie said.
"On the ice she gives me positive feedback, and we communicate and connect with each other really well. I'm looking forward to making memories with her and seeing how far our team goes," she said.
For her part, Kamryn said she's enjoyed the family connection on the ice.
"Being able to play with my sister is special, but being able to play on the same line is very special and exciting," Kamryn said.
"This is our first year playing with each other so we are still getting used to playing together. We have a sister connection, which allows us to work well together."
A fun fact about this year's team is that there are three sets of sisters playing on the team.
In addition to the Van Batavia sisters, Tenley and Payton

Girls' hockey/see page 8B



Greg Hoogeveen photos/1208 boys bb preview
The 2022-23 Luverne boys' basketball program returns five seniors. They are (front, from left) Marcus Feit, Riley Sneller, Tyson Cowell, (back) Gannon Ahrendt and Ja'Shon Winter.

Luverne boys' basketball team sets sights set high for 2022-23

By Greg Hoogeveen
The 2022-23 Luverne boys' basketball team may be lacking in varsity experience, but head coach John Sichmeller, now in his 10th year, is optimistic about the upcoming season.
"I am excited to see how the team improves throughout the year and to see which players step up throughout the season," Sichmeller said.
"We are looking to rely on our seniors to lead us this year."
The Cardinals' roster includes six seniors, guard Marcus Feit, guard Tyson Cowell, forward Riley Sneller, forward Ja'Shon Winter, forward Ashton Eitreim, and forward Gannon Ahrendt.
Ahrendt, who reached his 1,000th point during his junior season, is on track to break the school's scoring record.
"It is very impressive to reach 1,000 points anytime, but as a junior it is even more impressive," Sichmeller said in February.
"Gannon would probably

already be the school's all-time leading scorer if we wouldn't have had a shortened season last year and had he not broken his leg this year," he said back then.
Ahrendt is just the second boys' basketball player in Luverne High School history to reach the milestone.
Brett Heronimus was the first in 2013 and still holds the school record with 1,248 total points. Ahrendt, as a junior, had 1,017 points as of Feb. 21, 2022.
Underclassmen on the 2022-23 squad also include two juniors, center Gavin DeBeer and forward Isaac DeBates, three sophomores, guard Carter Sehr, center Eli Woodley and forward Landon Ahrendt, and one freshman, guard Jaydon Johnson.
Last year the Cardinals posted a 10-14 record.
They finished their year losing 51-49 to Fairmont High

"We are looking to rely on our seniors to lead us this year."

— John Sichmeller
LHS head coach boys basketball

School in the Subsection 3AA South quarterfinal.
The Cardinals were set to play their first game against the Southwest Minnesota Christian Eagles at home Dec. 1 and in Hills against the H-BC Patriots Dec. 6.
They'll face the Pipestone Arrows in Pipestone on Friday, Dec. 9.



photo/1208 LHS BB Gannon Ahrendt dunks the ball against H-BC
Gannon Ahrendt dunks the ball during a February 2022 game against Hills-Beaver Creek. He had 1,017 points as of Feb. 21, 2022, during his junior year.



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Greg Hoogeveen photos/1208 girls bb preview

The Luverne 2022-23 girls' basketball roster includes seven seniors. They are (front, from left) Emma Beyer, Jocelyn Hart, Averill Sehr, (back) Lauren Hansen, Elizabeth Wagner, Christina Wagner and Jadyn Hart.

Luverne girls' basketball team to build off previous success

By Greg Hoogeveen

The 2022-23 girls' basketball team approaches the new season on the heels of a 23-5 record last year that ended with a loss in sub-sections to Fairmont. Head coach TJ Newgard, now in his ninth season as head coach, said the Cardinals are well-positioned for success. "This team has won a lot of games and we are looking to compete for a section championship this year," he said. "This team is full of great players but even better people. They pride themselves on how they carry themselves on the court, in the classroom and in the community." He said the Cardinals will rely on a solid group of seven seniors for leadership this year. They include point guard Christina Wagner, point guard Emma Beyer, guard Averill Sehr, guard Elizabeth Wagner, center Jocelyn Hart, center Lauren Hansen and point guard/center Jadyn Hart. The team will also look for contributions from seven juniors on the roster. They include guard Tori Serie, guard

Sarah Stegenga, point guard Dennie Sandbulte, point guard Kira John, guard Kiesli Smith, guard Josi Voorhees and guard Kayla Bloemendaal. Newgard said he has high hopes for the Luverne team, whose roster is loaded with upperclassmen. "We are just looking forward to competing each time we step on the floor," he said. He mentioned that Minnesota Basketball News publication has Luverne ranked 14th in its pre-season issue. It also has Elizabeth Wagner listed in the Top 50 Players in girls' 2A. With this leadership and some hard work on the court, Newgard said the season looks bright. "We hope to be playing our best at the end of the season and make a deep run in the postseason," he said. The Luverne girls' basketball team was set to play the Southwest Minnesota Christian E-gals at home Dec. 1. The Cardinals were scheduled to play the Edgerton Dutchmen in Edgerton Dec. 5. They'll face the Pipestone Area Arrows at home on Friday, Dec. 9.



Submitted photo

Luverne High School basketball player Christina Wagner dribbles through traffic during a game with the Worthington Trojans in February 2022.

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Greg Hooegeven photos/1208 gymnastics preview

The 2022-23 gymnastics team returns its entire varsity roster from last year. They are (front, from left) sophomore Amira Cowell, freshman Addyson Mann, junior Sarah de Cesare, (back) freshman Kianna Winter, sophomore Kendra Thorson, sophomore Ella Reisdorfer and sophomore Hailey Como.

Varsity experience will carry LHS gymnasts to new heights

By Greg Hooegeven

The 2022-23 Luverne High school gymnastics team returns last year’s entire varsity roster.

This bodes well for the upcoming season, according to 29-year Cardinal head coach Phoebe Flom.

“We have girls with a lot of varsity experience and success,” she said.

“This is a very talented group of gymnasts who are very self-motivated and strong, and basically a dream to coach.”

She said the team will lean on sophomores Ella Reisdorfer and Amira Cowell, two varsity all-around gymnasts with state gymnastics experience to help them advance this season.

The roster also includes juniors Sarah de Cesare and Brooklyn Wicks, sophomores Hailey Como and Kendra

Thorson, freshmen Addyson Mann, Gabriella Nath-Huls, and Kianna Winter, eighth-graders Reinha John and Reagan Gangestad and seventh-graders Jerzey Hood and Morgan Nath-Huls.

Last year’s LHS gymnastics season record was 7-4, and Flom said she and the team are looking to improve on that this year.

“We hope to send some more girls to state again,” she said. “These gymnasts can make a run at the record.”

The goal this year is to break the school team score record of 135.525 points that was set in 2017.

Flom said the team will face injury challenges early in the season with two gymnasts recovering from an ATV accident earlier this year.

Loosbrock is out for the season, and de Cesare, a

varsity all-around competitor, is out until she is medically cleared.

In addition, Flom said a few others are starting the season with pulled muscles and are not yet practicing at their full capacity.

Flom said she’s generally optimistic about the 2022-23 gymnastics season.

“This is the most talented team I have ever coached,” she said.

“They are working hard to add new, advanced skills. If you haven’t seen a gymnastics meet in a while, you would be impressed with the skill level of these girls.”

The Cardinals’ home opener was set for Dec. 1 with Blue Earth Area, and they were scheduled to compete Dec. 6 in Worthington.

They will travel to the St. James Invitational Dec. 10.



Minnesota State High School League photo

Luverne gymnastics coach Phoebe Flom (left) stands by as LHS gymnast Ella Reisdorfer completes a pike Tsukahara off the vault during the 2022 MSHSL gymnastics tournament. Reisdorfer competed in the all-around competition.



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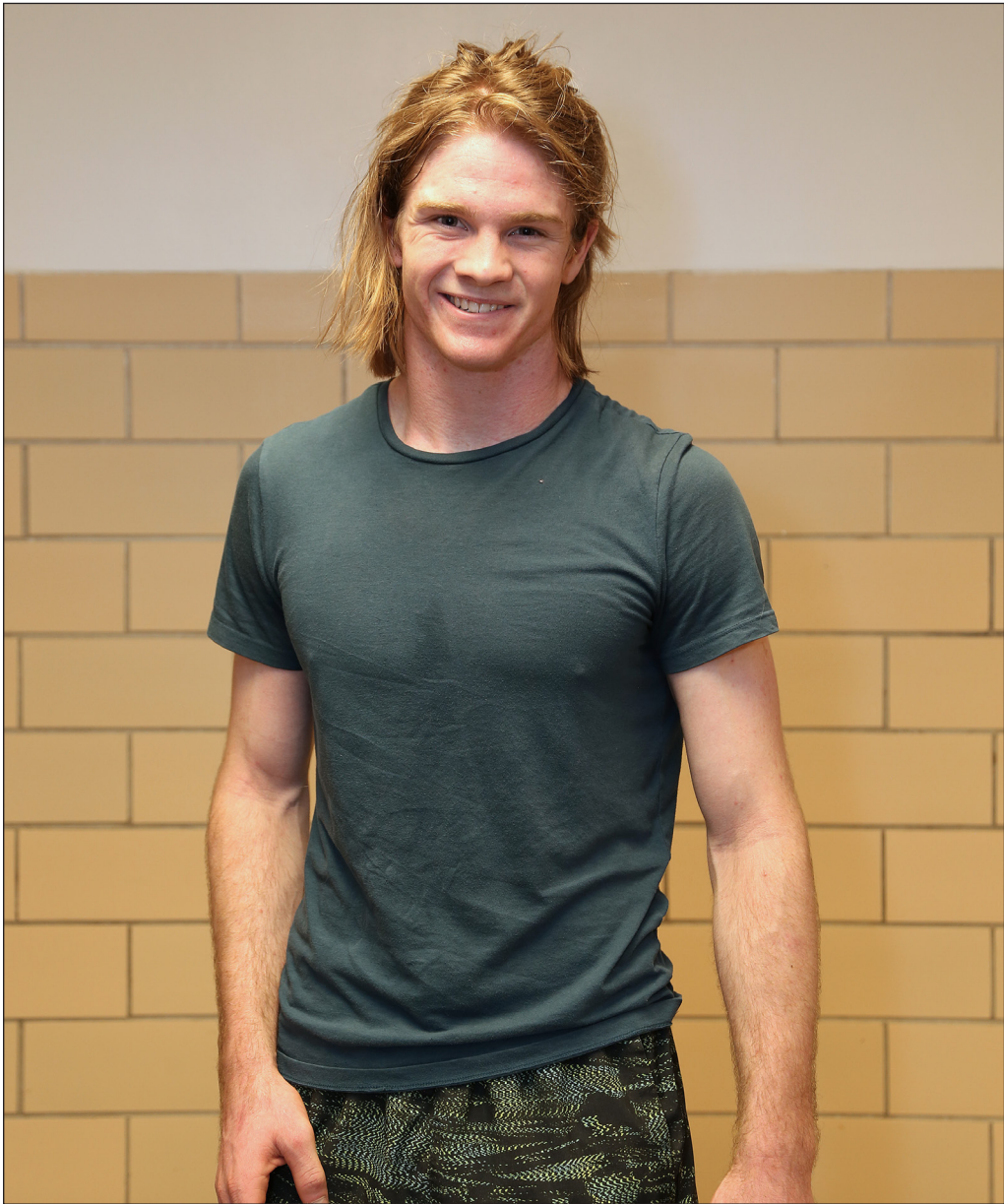
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Greg Hooegeveen photos/1208 wrestling preview

The 2022-23 Luverne wrestling team will be led by one senior, DJ Rock, who is new to the program. He and his family moved to the Luverne district from Colorado, where he has state wrestling experience.

“We continue to grow and provide the opportunities for our wrestlers to compete.”

“What many of these kids have accomplished isn’t always reflected by the final score.”

*— Jordan Kopp
Luverne High School
wrestling head coach*

Team growth, girls’ wrestling high points for 2022-23 season

By Greg Hooegeveen

Growth and competition are this year’s focus for the 2022-23 Luverne High School wrestling program, according to head coach Jordan Kopp.

“We continue to grow and provide the opportunities for our wrestlers to compete,” said Kopp, who has six years of head coaching experience, plus six years as assistant coach at LHS.

He said the program has a healthy number of participants this year, with 28 wrestlers on the roster.

With these numbers, Kopp said he hopes to fill all the weight classes for this year’s matches.

“Last year we were only able to fill 10 weight classes out of the regular 14, so every dual meet we were behind 24 team points,” he said.

That was four weight classes that didn’t have LHS wrestlers, which meant giving up six team

points per class. Despite this, Luverne won five team duals, and Kopp has his sights set on improving that record this year.

The 2021-22 team had five wins and 14 losses, but Kopp said his athletes continued to give their best in practice and competition.

“What many of these kids have accomplished isn’t always reflected by the final score,” he said.

He said he and his staff like to focus on being competitive, filling a full dual meet roster, and continuing to grow the program.

The coach also said the Cardinals’ wrestling program will draw strength from returning letter winners.

They include juniors Cash Bonnett who will compete in the 182-pound. weight class and Jacob Madison in the 195 class, sophomores Leif Ingebretsen at 138 and Jayden Reisch at 170, freshmen Cameron McCrary at

145 and Rayden Boyenga at 132 and eighth-graders Brody Kopp competing in 113, Matthew Gangestad at 132, Josh Stroh at 132 and Hudson Hough at 138.

The team has a new senior member, DJ Rock, who moved to the Luverne School District this fall. He competed previously in Colorado, where he was a state qualifier at the 152-pound weight class.

His brother, Sam, a junior competing at 170, also comes to LHS with state wrestling experience in Colorado.

And the Rock family doesn’t stop there. Two sisters, freshman Bernie competing in the 120 class and eighth-grader Cece at 152, are also part of the Luverne wrestling program, with their varsity contributions to be determined.

Female wrestlers aren’t new to the LHS program and the Minnesota State High School League; however, girls’ wrestling became an MSHSL-sanctioned sport in the

2021-22 season.

LHS grad Justyce Ripka was the Cardinals’ last female wrestler in the program.

This year, the Rock sisters will be joined by three other Luverne girls participating on the team.

They include junior Julia Hoogland, who will compete at 120, and sophomores Andrea Lui-tjens at 152 and Zakada Bradley at 106. Kopp said he looks forward to seeing them progress with the team.

Kopp and his assistants said they are excited for the upcoming season and are looking to be competitive with their numbers.

Their first competition was set for Dec. 3 at the Flandreau, South Dakota, Invitational, and Dec. 6 in Redwood Falls for the Redwood Valley Invitational.

They compete next Saturday in Jackson at the JCC Invitational. The first home competition is set for Dec. 17.



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Greg Hoogeveen photos/1208 HBC boys preview

The 2022-23 Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball seniors are (from left) Eli Taubert, Brayden Metzger, Brock Harnack and Joshua Wiersema. Head coach Kale Wiertzema said he'll look to this group for team leadership.

H-BC boys' basketball looking to seniors for leadership

By Greg Hoogeveen
The 2022-23 Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball team lost nine seniors from last year and they are leaning on the new crop of seniors early in the season, according to head coach Kale Wiertzema.
"Since losing 95 percent of our scoring and minutes played from last year, our focus is to enjoy the process by getting better every day," he said.
"The expectation is that we will be a much different team by the end of the year."
Last season H-BC finished 11-13 and 9-7 in the Red Rock Conference.
This year's roster includes seniors Brayden Metzger, Brock Harnack, Eli Taubert and Josh Wiersema.
"We'll need them to be great lead-

"The expectation is that we will be a much different team by the end of the year."

*— Kale Wiertzema
H-BC boys' basketball head coach*

ers early in the season," Wiertzema said.
Junior athletes on the team are Riley Tatge and Cooper Gehrke.
Sophomores are James Vanden-Bosch, Beau Bakken, Cameron Allen, Sawyer Bosch and Jackson Gacke.
Freshmen Jamin Metzger, EJ Wegener and Micah Bush round out

the roster.
"Our biggest challenge this year is our inexperience at varsity level," Wiertzema said.
"My hope is our underclassmen lead well and our sophomores and freshmen step up in a hurry. Both are capable but need to be confident in their new roles."
He said the Patriots are dealing with

a couple of injuries to start the year.
For example, Bush is recovering from a broken collar bone and Cooper Gehrke is waiting for results from a knee injury.
Despite his young team, Wiertzema said he's optimistic that his athletes will grow into their varsity responsibilities.
"What I'm looking forward to the most is the depth we'll have at all three levels," he said.
"It's already made practices much more competitive and gives us the opportunity to play fast and stay fresh."
The Patriots were set to open their season at home against Luverne Dec. 6. They'll face Red Rock Central at home Dec. 13.

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Dec 5	Edgerton	A
Dec 9	Pipestone Area	H
Dec 13	Jackson County Central	A
Dec 16	Redwood Valley	H
Dec 20	Hills-Beaver Creek	A
Jan 3	Windom	A
Jan 6	Marshall	H
Jan 7	Montevideo @ SMSU Marshall	A
Jan 10	Worthington	H
Jan 13	St James Area	A
Jan 17	Jackson County Central	H
Jan 20	Windom	H
Jan 24	Pipestone Area	A
Jan 27	Redwood Valley	A
Jan 28	TBD @ Augustana	A
Feb 2	Fairmont	H
Feb 3	St James Area	H
Feb 7	Martin County West	A
Feb 9	Adrian Area	H
Feb 10	Canby	A
Feb 14	Tracy-Milroy-Balaton	H
Feb 16	Worthington	A
Feb 18	Big South Conference Showcase	A
Feb 25	Subsection	H
March 15-17	State Tournament	A

BOYS' BB

Dec 1	Southwest Minnesota Christian	H
Dec 6	Hills-Beaver Creek	A
Dec 9	Pipestone Area	A
Dec 12	Edgerton	H
Dec 13	Jackson County Central	H
Dec 16	Redwood Valley	H
Jan 3	Windom	A
Jan 6	Marshall	H
Jan 7	Montevideo @ SMSU Marshall	A
Jan 9	Worthington	A
Jan 13	St James Area	A
Jan 14	Colman-Egan	A
Jan 17	Jackson County Central	A
Jan 20	Windom	H
Jan 24	Pipestone Area	H
Jan 27	Redwood Valley	A
Jan 31	Martin County West	A
Feb 2	Fairmont	A
Feb 3	St James Area	H
Feb 7	Hills-Beaver Creek	H
Feb 13	Adrian Area	H
Feb 16	Worthington	H
Feb 24	Minneota	H
Feb 25	Big South Conference Showcase	A

WRESTLING

Dec 3	Flandreau Invitational	A
Dec 6	Redwood Valley Invitational	A
Dec 10	Jackson CC Invitational	A
Dec 17	Tournament	H
Jan 7	Garretson Invitational	A
Jan 10	Adrian Area	A
Jan 12	Triangular	A
Jan 14	Conference Tournament Fairmont	A
Jan 17	Worthington/Windom Triangular	H
Jan 21	Invitational Wabasso	A
Jan 26	Triangular	A
Jan 31	Quad	H
Feb 7	Viborg	A
Feb 9	Triangular	H
Feb 10	Triangular	A
Feb 16	Sectional Tournament	A
Feb 24	Individual Section Tournament	A
Feb 25	Individual Section Tournament	H
Mar 2-4	State Tournament	A



GIRLS' HOCKEY

Nov 15	New Ulm	A
Nov 17	Windom	H
Nov 19	Minnesota River	A
Nov 22	Fairmont	A
Nov 29	Marshall	H
Dec 3	Waseca	H
Dec 6	Austin	H
Dec 10	Mankato East	A
Dec 16	Minnesota River	H
Dec 17	River Lakes Stars	H
Dec 22	Worthington	A
Dec 26-28	Tournament @ Schwan Super Rink	
Jan 3	Fairmont	H
Jan 10	Albert Lea	A
Jan 13	Breckenridge/Wahpeton	A
Jan 14	Warroad Public	A
Jan 19	New Ulm	H
Jan 21	Dodge County	A
Jan 24	Worthington	H
Jan 27	Marshall	A
Feb 2	Windom	A
Feb 4	Waseca	A

BOYS' HOCKEY

Nov 29	Marshall	A
Dec 2	Two Rivers	H
Dec 3	Waseca	H
Dec 9	New Ulm	A
Dec 13	Windom	H
Dec 17	Rochester Lourdes	A
Dec 22	Worthington	A
Dec 28-30	Tournament @ Graham Arena Complex	A
Jan 3	Fairmont	A
Jan 7	MBA Storm	H
Jan 12	Redwood Valley	A
Jan 14	Waseca	A
Jan 17	Albert Lea	A
Jan 21	Dodge County	A
Jan 24	Worthington	H
Jan 26	New Ulm	H
Jan 31	Redwood Valley	H
Feb 2	Marshall	H
Feb 4	MBA Storm	A
Feb 7	Fairmont	H
Feb 10	Minnesota River	H
Feb 11	Minnesota River	A
Feb 16	Windom	A

GYMNASTICS

Dec 1	Blue Earth Area	H
Dec 6	Worthington	A
Dec 10	St James Invitational	A
Dec 15	Pipestone Area	H
Jan 5	Redwood Valley	A
Jan 7	Fairmont/MCW Invitational	A
Jan 10	Windom	H
Jan 17	JCC	H
Jan 26	Marshall	A
Jan 31	Fairmont	A
Feb 2	St James Area	H
Feb 7	New Ulm	H
Feb 18	Sections	A

HILLS-BEAVER CREEK



H-BC GIRLS' BB

Nov 26	MN West	A
Nov 29	Russell-Tyler-Ruthon	H
Dec 2	Edgerton	H
Dec 6	MCC	H
Dec 9	Adrian-Ellsworth	A
Dec 16	Alcester-Hudson	A
Dec 17	Central Lyon	H
Dec 20	Luverne	H
Dec 22	MLA-C	A
Jan 3	Elkton-Lake Benton	A
Jan 5	HLOF	H
Jan 9	Westbrook-Walnut Grove	A
Jan 10	West Lyon	A
Jan 12	Southwest MN Christian	A
Jan 14	Dakota State	A
Jan 17	Adrian-Ellsworth	H
Jan 20	MLA-C	H
Jan 21	Elkton	A
Jan 24	Edgerton	A
Jan 27	MCC	H
Jan 28	Red Rock Central	A
Jan 31	St Mary	A
Feb 6	Southwest MN Christian	H
Feb 10	HLOF	A
Feb 16	Westbrook-Walnut Grove	H
Feb 20	Red Rock Central	H

H-BC BOYS' BB

Dec 6	Luverne	H
Dec 13	Red Rock Central	H
Dec 16	Alcester-Hudson	H
Dec 17	Central Lyon	H
Dec 20	MLA-C	A
Dec 30	Tournament at SMSU	A
Jan 3	Elkton-Lake Benton	A
Jan 6	MCC	A
Jan 10	HLOF	H
Jan 13	Southwest MN Christian	H
Jan 14	Elkton	A
Jan 17	Edgerton	A
Jan 19	Adrian-Ellsworth	A
Jan 21	Dakota State	A
Jan 26	Westbrook Walnut Grove	H
Jan 28	Red Rock Central	A
Jan 31	MCC	H
Feb 3	Edgerton	H
Feb 7	Luverne	A
Feb 9	HLOF	A
Feb 14	Southwest MN Christian	A
Feb 17	MLA-C	H
Feb 21	Westbrook Walnut Grove	A
Feb 24	Russell-Tyler-Ruthon	A
Feb 27	Adrian-Ellsworth	H

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Samantha McGaffee photo/1208 HBC girls
Taylor Huisman (left) and Olivia Bork are the senior leaders for the Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball team for the 2022-23 basketball season.

Girls' hockey/
from page 1B

Behr and Kassidy and Emma Saarloos are also playing together on the LHS team.

Coach Sandbulte is joined by assistant manager Matt McClure and volunteer assistants Ellen (Dahl) and Skyler Wenninger.

Sandbulte said he's pleased to be in a strong position starting the 2022-23 season, despite losing senior leaders who have moved on to play at the college level.

LHS 2022 grad Billi Connell is playing softball for the Minnesota Gophers, and Reghan Bork is playing hockey for Concordia College in Moorhead.

The Cardinals girls have already amassed a 5-0 record for the current season, beating New Ulm, Windom, Minnesota River, Fairmont and Marshall.

They were set to meet Waseca Saturday, Dec. 3, at home and Austin on Tuesday, Dec. 6, at home.

They will travel to Mankato East on Dec. 10.

Boys' hockey/
from page 1B

Paquette is in his seventh season as head coach.

He and assistant coaches Chris Denhoed and Kaden Ericson are excited for this season.

"We are looking forward to the challenges and successes we can reach as a team," Paquette said.

The Cardinals boys' hockey team won their first game of the season Nov. 29 against Marshall 5-3 in Marshall.

They were set to play Dec. 2 at home against Two Rivers and Dec. 3 at home against Waseca. They'll play New Ulm on the road Friday, Dec. 9.

By Greg Hoogeveen

Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball head coach Dylan Gehrke said his young team has been working hard in the offseason, and he looks forward to those efforts paying off for the 2022-23 season.

"These girls lived in the gym this past summer, and it will be exciting to see them contribute this year on the JV and varsity level," Gehrke said.

The Lady Patriots will return three starters from last year, senior guard Olivia Bork, junior guard Layla Deelstra and junior forward Lanae Elbers.

He said he'll also look for leadership from returning juniors Larissa Steinhoff and Brynn Rauk, freshman Abbie Harris, and eighth-grader Olivia Deelstra, all of whom contributed playing time on the varsity squad last year.

"All of these girls will be taking on more responsibilities throughout the season," Gehrke said.

"All of these girls will be taking on more responsibilities throughout the season."

"Here at H-BC our main goal is that we are growing as people just as much as we are as players."

— Dylan Gehrke
H-BC girls' basketball head coach

He said the team's main focus this year will be on attitude and effort.

"If we can take care of those two things, we will hopefully come out on top a lot throughout the season" Gehrke said.

Last year the Lady Pates were runners-up in the conference, and Gehrke said he hopes to be battling up there again this year.

The Patriots' roster also includes sophomores Bailey Spykerboer and Emma Deels-tra and freshmen Izzy Wysong, Claire Knobloch, and Ella Sammons, who will see some of their first playing time this season on the floor for the varsity team.

Last year the H-BC girls were 11-5 in the conference with an overall record of 13-13. This year Gehrke said his team

faces another tough non-conference schedule.

"I know our girls will be up for the battle against some of the bigger schools in Minnesota, and out-of-state opponents as well," he said.

"Here at H-BC our main goal is that we are growing as people just as much as we are as players."

He said a sign in the locker room has been influential for Patriot athletes for years.

It says, "Person>Player," meaning that personal development comes ahead of athletic achievement.

"That is still our main focus," Gehrke said. "If we can be great people and teammates and focus on making everyone else's job easier, we will have a successful season, in my eye."

They were scheduled to host the Edgerton Flying Dutchmen Dec. 2 and Murray County Central Dec. 6. They will face Adrian-Ellsworth on the road Friday Dec. 9.

Good Luck to the
COACHES and ATHLETES

Luverne Cardinals

H-BC Patriots

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