

SPRING SPORTS

2022

Featuring Golf, Baseball, Softball, Track, Tennis & Trap from LUVERNE & Hills-Beaver Creek

April 7, 2022

A production of The Star Herald & Featured Advertisers

Our sports writing team

The Star Herald is seeking a full-time sports writer and photographer, but until we find the right person for the job, we have recruited talented local contributors. Our photographers are Canaan Petersen for Luverne sports and Samantha McGaffee for Hills-Beaver Creek. Following are the Star Herald contributors for our spring sports coverage.



John Sichmeller covers Luverne boys' and girls' golf for the Star Herald. He's a Luverne High School business and computer teacher and also the head golf coach and boys' basketball coach.

Why did he agree to write spring sports stories for the Star Herald? He recognizes that parents and community sports fans are important components of high school athletic programs, and Star Herald sports pages keep them involved.

"Obviously, as the coach I will have access to all of the stats and information pertaining to the golf teams so I figured I might as well help out and get that information out to the readers so that they could follow along with our season."



Jason Berghorst, a 1997 LHS grad, covers Luverne baseball and boys' tennis for the Star Herald this spring. He's an LHS world history and college psychology teacher who has been the Star Herald part-time summer news and sports reporter since 2014.

Why did he agree to write spring sports stories for the Star Herald? "I know that Star Herald readers look for and value our sports coverage. Our local newspaper is important to me, and I wanted to help out. I especially enjoy baseball, as that is something I also cover in the summer months, but I generally enjoy showcasing the student athletes who work hard all season and represent LHS while playing their sports."



Dalton Bass, a 2013 H-BC grad, covers Hills-Beaver Creek girls' and boys' golf and girls' and boys' track and field for the Star Herald. He's the building, grounds and transportation director for H-BC and is assistant coach for Patriots football and track.

Why did he agree to write spring sports stories for the Star Herald? "I enjoy following the teams throughout the season, and

Sportwriters/see page 3B



Imagesbycd/0407 spring sports LHS track

The Luverne track program this year includes a sizeable group of athletes who competed at the section level in 2021. They are (front, from left) Alexis Hultgren, Anna Banck, Ella Schmuck, Mia Wenzel, Bella Oye, Sarah Stegenga, Jenna DeBates, Makena Nelson, (middle) Grace Ingebretsen, Tenley Nelson, Tiana Lais, Kendra Thorson, Owen Janiszewski, Lucky Dara, Jadyn Hart, Kayla Bloemendaal, Sage Viessman, Hailey Como, (back) Maria Rops, Cassi Chesley, Elizabeth Wagner, Camden Janiszewski, Jordan Friedrichsen, Eli Radtke, Ashton Sandbulte, Ethan Rahm, Tyler Rolfs and Noah Mehlhaff. Not pictured is Jocelyn Hart.

Spring season looks bright for Cardinal track and field

**By Blaine Radtke
For the Star Herald**

"As always, we're excited for another season and excited to get the kids out on the track competing in meets," coach Pete Janiszewski said about the promise of a new track and field season in Luverne.

"We have a great group of returning section and state qualifiers that we will be looking to, along with our seniors, to lead our team."

Both the boys' and girls' teams are defending Section 3A champions.

The Minnesota State High School

League is a three-class system this year, up from two classes in previous years.

Luverne and the other small school teams in the southwest Minnesota area are coming back in Class A. The state meet will be back in St. Michael June 9-11.

The State True Team competition is also going to three classes.

"We're happy to be back down in Class A for True Team, as we feel that both our teams will be able to compete for an opportunity to win section titles and qualify for the state True Team meet," coach Janiszewski said.

There are 108 athletes this spring in the Cardinal program (61 girls and 47 boys), a 20-percent increase in participation over last year's numbers, which speaks well for the program's success.

The Cardinal boys finished 20th at the state meet last year.

The returning state qualifiers from last year on the boys' side include Ashton Sandbulte, a Valley City State University Track and Field commit, who finished third in the 100-meter dash.

Luverne track and field/see page 10B

Luverne baseball begins season with new coach

By Jason Berghorst

"Luverne baseball has an outstanding system in place, but we'll work to make it our own."

That's how Phil Paquette, the new LHS head baseball coach, summarizes the program's transition from longtime coach Mike Wenninger, who retired at the end of the 2021 season after 25 years as the Cardinal mentor.

"I had the privilege to learn from Coach Wenninger while growing up and playing on the VFW and high school teams," Paquette said.

Paquette, who graduated from LHS in 2009, played college baseball at South Dakota State University from 2009 to 2012. He earned All-Summit League honors as a Jackrabbit in 2012.

He has also played on the Luverne Redbirds amateur baseball team since 2009.

Paquette is the school nurse for the Luverne Public Schools and has served as an assistant to Wenninger in the LHS baseball program for the past eight seasons.

"I've learned so much about baseball and about life from Coach Wenninger," Paquette said. "It really feels like we are coming full circle in a lot of ways."

Joining Paquette on the new LHS coaching staff are Bailey Cowell, the varsity assistant, and Derek Elbers, who will coach the JV and ninth-grade teams.

In all, the Cardinals have 29 players in grades 9-12 at the start of the 2022 season, including six seniors, five juniors, seven sophomores and eleven freshmen.

In the first two weeks of practice, Paquette is still evaluating players and determining his varsity lineup.



Imagesbycd/0407 spring sports baseball

Returning varsity letters on the baseball team are (from left) Braydon Ripka, Riley Sneller, Conner Connell, Connor Overgaard, Kaden Anderson and Casey Sehr.

"Change isn't always easy and we might take some lumps along the way, but I'm confident if the kids buy in, are flexible and play an energetic form of baseball, we'll be in a good spot."

— Baseball coach Phil Paquette

The Cardinals will benefit from a number of returning players with some level of varsity experience.

Seniors Casey Sehr (infield, pitcher), Kaden Anderson (infield, pitcher), Connor Overgaard (infield), and Braydon Ripka (catcher, outfield, pitcher) all saw varsity playing time last year, as did junior Riley Sneller (outfield) and sophomore Conner Connell (infield, outfield,

Luverne baseball/see page 3B

Cardinal softball builds on young talent and solid leaders

**By Stacy Olson
For the Star Herald**
The LHS softball team is ready to take the field for the 2022 season.

After a 12-12 season and two playoff wins over Tracy-Milroy-Balaton and Windom, the 2021 Cardinal softball team graduated four seniors.

They included Roz Oye, an all-conference player, Ainslie Robinson, all-conference honorable mention, Shelby Kracht and Leah Wynia.

“The (2022) team will consist of a mixture of some young and inexperienced talent with some players who have been on varsity for several years,” softball head coach Brooks Maurer said.

As a returning starter, senior Billi Connell will be filling some time at third base and at shortstop.

Connell, all-conference and all-state second team last year, will bring a ton of leadership as well as strong offense and defense for the Cardinals.

Junior Carly Olson is returning behind the plate as well as playing some possible infield.

Olson, all-conference honorable mention last year, will also assist the team both in the field and at the plate.



LHS **softball** seniors include (from left) Macie Swenson, Brenn Siebenahler, Jacey Smith, Billi Connell and Reghan Bork. Imagesbycd/0407 spring sports softball

Senior Reghan Bork returns to varsity this season and will be able to fill both infield and outfield positions.

Sophomore infielder Anika Boll will play her second season for the varsity team. Senior outfielder

Jacey Smith will be back in action for the Cardinals. Gracie Nath, a sophomore, will return to the field to pitch for Cardinals

after a strong rookie season in 2021. Other players who will be returning to the 2022 varsity team are senior

outfielders Brenn Siebenahler and Macie Swenson and sophomore catcher and outfielder Belle Smidt.

Players who will be looking for some field time this year also include senior infielder Kendall Buss (currently out with an injury), sophomore Tori Serie (who could see some infield and outfield time), and freshmen Payton Behr (infield), Ella Reisdorfer (pitcher and infield) and Amira Cowell (pitcher and outfield).

Coach Maurer said he sees a lot of potential this season.

“I think one of our main goals as a program every year is to finish the regular season with a winning record and to be playing our best going into playoffs,” Maurer said.

He said this year’s Cardinals bring a good mix of leadership, experience, skill and competitive attitude, plus the team has several big hitters coming up to the plate as well as some speed on the bases.

Maurer said the Cardinals also have a consistent and reliable defense, mixed with a few different pitching styles.

“The 2022 softball team should bring some good competition to the ball game this season,” he said.

Seasoned golfers return to Luverne girls’ and boys’ links in 2022

**By John Sichmeller
For the Star Herald**
The Luverne boys’ and girls’ golf teams have a lot to be excited about this season.

With both squads bringing back a majority of their varsity players, the Cardinal golfers have big goals for the 2022 season.

The **Cardinals boys** will bring back five of six varsity golfers from a relatively successful 2021 season when they finished second in the Big South West division and fifth overall.

The team also qualified for the second round of the section meet and placed fourth out the 16 teams in Section 3AA.

“I was really happy with last year’s season considering we had a lot of players with no varsity experience,” said Luverne boys’ golf coach John Sichmeller.

“Through our play dur-

ing the season we gave ourselves a chance at winning the conference title, but a bad final round of conference play took us out of the running.”

He said he’s hoping the boys can learn from that experience and can make another strong run at winning the conference.

“Our goal this year is to win the conference and give ourselves a shot at the state tournament as a team,” Sichmeller said. “We have the talent to be right there, but we will have to put in a lot of work to make it happen.”

The Cardinals will be led by sophomore Henry Hartquist, who had the lowest scoring average on the team last season and was the team’s lone All-Conference player.

“Henry had an awesome season for us last year. It is rare to see anyone win as many meets as Henry did, let alone a freshman,” the



Seniors on the Luverne High School **girls’ golf** team for 2022 include (from left) Cheyenne Schutz, Morgan Gonnerman and Lauren Hansen. Imagesbycd/0407 spring sports golf

coach said. “Henry hits it long and has an excellent short game. I am excited to see him play this season.”

The Cardinals have the benefit of two solid players following Hartquist in the lineup.

Sophomore Owen Sudenga and junior Brady Bork were the second and third leading scorers last year, and Sichmeller looks for them to have breakout seasons this year.

“I expect Brady and Owen to start winning some meets this year individually. Both have a ton of talent and can hang with anyone,” he said.

“Brady plays more rounds than anyone on our team, and Owen has a really nice swing and excellent touch around the greens,” said Sichmeller.

Luverne will also rely on steady scoring from sophomore Tyler Arends and senior Colin Schoeneman who played their first year on varsity last year and had solid seasons for the Cardinals.

The Cardinals will have some options to fill in the last spot on their roster with junior Camden

Luverne golf/see page 10B



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Cardinals to strive for 12th consecutive section championship

By Jason Berghorst
For the Star Herald

As the 2022 season begins, the Luverne boys' tennis team has the same goal it has had for at least a dozen years. "Our goal is to win the section team championship," said Lucas Larson, second-year head coach for the Cardinals. "That's the goal and expectation for this program every year."

Larson's team will be looking to quality for its 12th consecutive trip to the state tournament this June.

To do so, the Cardinals will need to replace three starters who graduated last year in this year's lineup.

Ben Jarchow, Jayson Rops and John Miller all graduated from the team in 2021.

"That's almost a third of our varsity roster that we need to replace," Larson said.

Fortunately for the Cardinals, the 2022 team includes seven returning varsity players and nine total seniors.

Seniors Pierce Cunningham, Griffen Jarchow, Blake Frahm, Kyle Ferguson and Chance Tunnissen all saw varsity action last year, along with juniors Ethan Nath and Logan Ommen.

Larson expects Cunningham, Jarchow and Frahm to all play singles this season.

The fourth singles player and the specific roster placements were yet to be determined as of this writing after the third day of practice.



Seniors on the 2022 LHS boys' tennis team are (from left) Kyle Ferguson, Sam Emery, Blake Frahm, Chance Tunnissen, Griffen Jarchow, Luke Bosch, Pierce Cunningham, Hunter Gaffney, Jace Arp and Burke Johnson.

"We have a nice balance of returning talent and new players. Our goal is to win the section team championship."

— Lucas Larson
Luverne High School tennis coach

Junior Parker Carbonneau and sophomore Spencer Kracht are other returning team members on the 17-man roster.

Seniors joining the team for the first time this year are Luke Bosch, Burke Johnson, Levi

Luverne tennis/continued on page 8B

Cardinal baseball team/continued from page 1B

pitcher).

Paquette will also look at two seniors, Jack Schlosser and Nathaniel Cole-Kraty, who have returned to baseball after a couple of seasons off.

Juniors Zach DeBoer (infield, pitcher), Austin Ossefort (outfield, pitcher), Tyler Gebauer (outfield) and Andy Halverson (infield) will all be competing for varsity spots.

Sophomores Jacob Stroh (infield, pitcher), Will Serie (catcher, infield), Patrick Kroski (catcher, pitcher, outfield), Kai Buss (outfield, pitcher) and Elliot Domagala (infield, outfield, pitcher) may also be in the running for varsity playing time.

Paquette said he's excited for the upcoming season but knows there could be some challenges ahead as the LHS program transitions to a new coaching staff for the first time in a quarter century.

"Change isn't always easy and we might take some lumps along the way, but I'm confident if the kids buy in, are flexible and play an energetic form of baseball, we'll be in a good spot," he said.

"We aren't going to reinvent the wheel. I've coached these kids in the past and they've been successful at every level."

Paquette said he's confident the team will be competitive through the season, and he hopes "... to be right in the mix in the conference and section by the end of the season."

Star Herald spring sports writers/continued from page 1B



Stacy Olson, a 1993 LHS graduate, covers Luverne softball for the Star Herald this spring. She's a program director for Habilitative Services Inc. (HSI) and has coached softball for 10 years. Her husband, JJ, is the assistant coach for the team and their daughter, Carly, is a junior catcher for the team. **Why did she agree to write spring sports stories for the Star Herald?** My husband and I have been active in Luverne softball and baseball for 20 years. We have advocated for the growth of softball in the community and have watched many softball players grow both on and off the field. Softball and baseball have become a passion that we have shared as a family.

Sports writers Bass/from 1B

I like to keep up to date with the coaches about competition after road trips. Having been the sportswriter for H-BC's recent winter season, I figured it would be kind of fun to continue that coverage of our Patriot teams this spring for the Star Herald."



Mavis Fodness, a 1983 LHS grad (maiden name Olson), covers Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek trapshooting for the Star Herald where she is a veteran news reporter, photographer and Community Page editor.

Why did she agree to write spring sports stories for the Star Herald? "My interest in trap shooting started with my early Star Herald news coverage of the high school leagues when they organized six years ago. I've reported on the trap teams through the years and watched the activity evolve into a Minnesota High School League-sanctioned sport. It takes skill and talent to be a good marksman. I've come to respect those qualities in our students and feel privileged to provide sports coverage for both teams."



Blaine Radtke covers Luverne track and field for the Star Herald this spring. He and his wife, Jen, are working together — he puts together results and she helps with composition and editing. They are longtime Cardinal track and field fans following their children, Josey, who graduated in 2013, and Eli, a senior sprinter and pole vaulter this spring. Jen is a special education teacher with Luverne schools, and Blaine is a social worker for Nobles County.

Why did he agree to write spring sports stories for the Star Herald? "I ran track and field when I was in high school and have a love for the sport, and my son is currently a senior. I know there has not been an official sportswriter for a while now and wanted to make sure that track and field was covered in the paper."

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Coach builds team for lifetime of trapshooting enjoyment



Mavis Fodness photo/0407 Spring Sports Trap H-BC

The Hills-Beaver Creek High School trapshooting team is led by 10 seniors including (front, left) Robert Drake, Daniel Martinyuk, (second row) Weston Kellenberger, Casey Kueter, Max Scholten, Ty Bundesen, (back) Tara Paulsen and Danette Leenderts. Not pictured are Journey Dwire and Samantha Moser.

Shooting starts April 28

By Mavis Fodness

Second-year coach Travis Dwire is excited for the 2022 trapshooting season at Hills-Beaver Creek High School.

Two of his team members competed at last year's Minnesota State High School Trap Shooting Championships in Alexandria.

"Both shot their season's best rounds," Dwire said. "It's exciting to be at Alexandria to see the comradery among participants, the excitement of being with students that share a common interest. They were really amped up at the event."

He said he wants more students to experience the championship atmosphere of an invitation to the Minnesota State High School League tournament each June in Prior Lake.

Although his shooters didn't receive an invite to the league's state tournament, Dwire has seen the impact the championship experience had on his daughter, Journey, and teammate Lukas Hubbard.

"We started practice on Monday (March 28) and they shot rounds right where they left off," he said.

H-BC has 27 students on this year's trapshooting team. They practice and complete their virtual competition rounds at the Garretson, South Dakota, Sportsmen's Club.

Twenty-seven students make up this year's team including:

- Seniors Journey Dwire, Ty Bundesen, Robert Drake, Weston Kellenberger, Casey Kueter, Danette Leenderts, Daniel Martinyuk, Samantha Moser, Tara Paulson, Max Scholten;
- Juniors Olivia Bork, Luke Fuerstenberg, Alex Harris, Cole Rozeboom;
- Sophomore Cooper Gehrke;
- Freshmen Lukas Hubbard, Cameron Allen, Sawyer Bosch, Blake Leenderts, Jack Moser and John Tiesler;
- Eighth-graders Brooklynnne Hubbard, Clayton Kellenberger, Michael Ykema;
- Seventh-graders Camdyn Broesder and Hunter Leenderts.

The Patriots open the five-week virtual competition season on April 18. Shooters compete in two 25-target rounds.

Scores are entered weekly to the Minnesota State High School Clay Target League.

H-BC is assigned to a conference based on the size of the team. Each week students are recognized for shooting a perfect round.

Last year, Casey Kueter reached the 25-straight club for hitting every target in one round.

H-BC's top ranked shooters in the boys' division are Luke Fuerstenberg and Cooper Gehrke. The team's top girls' shooters are Journey Dwire and Danette Leenderts.

Assisting Dwire with this year's team are Arlyn Gehrke, Kraig Scholten, Stacey Bork, Laura Leenderts, Derek Bundesen, Scott Harris and Shaun Hubbard.

One goal Dwire would like to achieve this season is for more H-BC students to participate in the shooting championships.

A second goal is to teach students to respect and enjoy firearms for a lifetime as well as enjoy the team aspect of trapshooting while having a safe season.

"I'm looking forward to another wonderful season in the fastest-growing high school sport," Dwire said. "I hope the students take away something that they will remember for the rest of their lives."



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New team format may lead to Top 3 finish for Luverne trapshooting team in 2022 season

By Mavis Fodness

Luverne High School trapshooting coach Scott Loosbrock hopes a new organizational format will help his team be better contenders in this year's conference.

"I split them because the sixth- through eighth-graders, as a rule, is a bigger group," he said.

Generally, middle-schoolers have less experience than their high school teammates and Loosbrock wants to give the first- and second-year athletes time to mature.

There are 56 athletes on the 2022 Luverne trap team.

Loosbrock split students into the high school league (26) with 30 involved in the team's in-house league.

The high school league will compete in the five-week competition virtual-shoot season.

Each week, trap teams across Minnesota shoot two 25-clay rounds with a perfect 50 score.

The season culminates in the trapshooting championships in Alexandria in June followed by the Minnesota High School League State Tournament.

Scores from the athletes in the local high school league go toward conference standings.

Loosbrock said he hopes the high school finish in the conference's top three. "If everyone puts their minds to it — good things will happen," he said.

Participating in Luverne's high school league are:

- seniors Hunter Ahrendt, Chris Aning, Ayden Bonnett, Trygve Gangestad, Hans Hoven, Kayetlin Huiskes, Chase Overgaard, Cheyenne Schutz;
- juniors Jacob Henning, JT Remme, Grant Wiencke;
- sophomores Cash Bonnett, Morgan Bonnett, Samuel Honerman, Jacob Madison, Holden Overgaard, Rayanne Remme;
- freshmen Landon Ahrendt, Alex DeWispelaere, Andrew Kinsinger, Linkon Knorr, Chase Matthiesen, Eli McLendon, Liam Murphy, Tucker Remme and



Nine Luverne High School seniors lead this year's trapshooting team including (front from left) Kayetlin Huiskes, Cheyenne Schutz, (back) Trygve Gangestad, Hunter Gaffaney, Ayden Bonnett, Chase Overgaard and Hunter Ahrendt. Missing are Hans Hoven and Chris Aning.

- Piper Wynia.
- Luverne's in-house league includes:
- senior Hunter McGaffaney;
 - juniors Tyson Cowell, Lucas Hansen, Nicholas Hansen;
 - sophomore Sawyer Saker;

- freshmen Kaleb Hemme, Ashton Hood, Austin Morseman, Alex Schlosser;
- eighth-graders Fox Forrest, Josh Hansen, Jude Hoven, Levi Huisman, Nicholas Mann, Makayla Oechsle;

- seventh-graders Marty Fick, Colton Haubrich, Keagan Jesse, Colin Knips, Brody Kopp, Aydon Kopp, Luca Smith;
- sixth-graders Oliver Mead, Owen Overgaard, Nicholas Rolfs, Vaughn Sandbulte, Kale Versteeg

and Logan Wrigg.

Assisting Loosbrock with the trap team are Doug Deutsch, Delbert Gangestad, Rich DeSchepper, Dave Stearns, Joe Loosbrock, Curt Honerman and Tom Remme.



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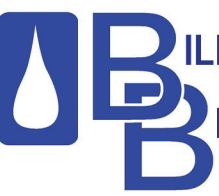
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Samantha McGaffee photo/0407 spring sports HBC track girls
Members of the Hills-Beaver Creek girls' track team are (front, left) Tatyana Williams, Emma Deelstra, Clara VandenBosch, Taylor Durst, Kenadie Fick, Larissa Steinhoff, Layla Deelstra, Brynn Rauk, Abigail Harris, Aspyr Shimp, (back) Bailey Spykerboer, Ally Birger, Hailey Moser, Makynzie Hellerud, Katelyn Chesley, Isabel Wysong, Brynn Bakken, Olivia Deelstra, Ava Steinhoff, Ella Sammons and Tyrae Goodface.

Hills-Beaver Creek track and field program to lean heavily on new incoming talent for the Patriots' 2022 season

By Dalton Bass
For the Star Herald
The H-BC track team has some big shoes to fill following a 2021 season that saw eight different state participants including two relay teams and one open event.
The boys' 4-by-100-meter relay team broke the H-BC school record in 2021 and helped lead the Patriot boys to a conference championship.
They included Dewell Rauk, Cole Baker, Gavin Wysong, and Tyson Bork, none of whom return

to the Patriots team in 2022.
Taryn Rauk qualified for the state meet in the open 200 meter while the girls' 4-by-100-meter relay team also competed in the state meet.
Those relay runners included Rauk, Ashlee Kelderman, Layla Deelstra and Abbie Harris.
"I like the makeup of our boys' and girls' teams," said H-BC track coach Rex Metzger.
"We have good numbers, and a lot of our athletes from last year are back."
Harris, Deelstra and Kenadie

Fick are 2021 section qualifiers who return for the Patriot girls' team in 2022.
Harris and Deelstra were on the section-qualifying girls' 4-by-100-meter relay team and the girls' 4-by-200-meter relay team, and Fick ran the open 800- and 1600-meter races.
Other likely contributors on the girls' roster are senior Taylor Durst, junior Aspen Shimp, sophomores Larissa Steinhoff and Brynn Rauk, freshmen Bailey
H-BC track and field/see page 7B

"I like the makeup of our boys' and girls' teams. We have good numbers, and a lot of our athletes from last year are back."

"We look forward to being competitive in our sprint relays again this year as well as the field events."

— Coach Rex Metzger
Hills-Beaver Creek High School
track and field teams

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Samantha McGaffee photo/0407 spring sports HBC track boys
Members of the Hills-Beaver Creek boys' track team are (front, left) Max Scholten, Brock Harnack, Cooper Gehrke, Luke Fuerstenberg, Liam Raymon, Ty Bundesen, Brayden Metzger, Alexander Harris, Eli Taubert, (back) Jamesyn Klosterbuer, Jack Moser, Jackson Gacke, Beau Bakken, Cameron Allen, Riley Tatge, James Vandenbosch, Lukas Hubbard, Talon Steensma and Quintyn Volden.

Hills-Beaver Creek High School track and field preview/continued from page 6B

Spykerboer and Emma Deelstra, eighth-graders Ally Birger and Isabel Wysong, and seventh-graders Brynn Bakken and Olivia Deelstra.

The Patriot boys do have some success to build on with returning athletes who participated in the section meet last year.

Ty Bundesen, Liam Raymon, Max Scholten and Brock Harnack were all section qualifiers on the boys' side of the Patriots' track and field roster.

Bundesen ran in the open 100 meter and in the 4-by-200 relay. Raymon competed in the open 800, the 4-by-200 relay and

triple jump.

Harnack competed in the 300-meter hurdles, and Scholten threw shot put and discus.

Metzger said a good group of underclassmen will likely help the H-BC track boys have another successful season.

They include juniors Brayden Metzger, Luke Fuerstenberg and Eli Taubert and sophomores Cooper Gehrke and Riley Tatge.

In all, there are currently 52 athletes in grades 7 through 12 signed up to compete in Patriots track and field events this spring, and Coach Metzger said he

has high expectations for his boys' and girls' teams this year.

"We look forward to being competitive in our sprint relays again this year

as well as the field events," he said.

"I think a goal we have

each year is to place in the top three of the conference for both boys and girls."



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Rock County
STAR HERALD

Luverne High School tennis/
continued from page 3B

Thielbar, Jace Arp and Hunter Gaffaney. Terran Siebenahler is a freshman new to the team this year.

Larson is still conducting pre-season evaluations of these new players to see how they will fit into this year's lineup.

"We have a nice balance of returning talent and new players," Larson said.

Eighth-graders Austin Sandbulte, Elijah Henrichs, Caleb Kracht and Zander Carbonneau round out the team.

The Cardinals open the season with a busy schedule with four matches in the first week. Luverne is scheduled to host Madison, South Dakota, and Vermillion, South Dakota, Tuesday and Thursday respectively before traveling to Fairmont Friday and St. James Saturday.

"We have a real early schedule; we'll be starting fast," Larson said.

When asked about his goals for the season, coach Larson mentioned not only the section championship, but also the conference championship.

"We lost the conference championship last season by one point, 4-3," Larson said, "We want to get back to winning the Big South Conference this season as well."



H-BC section qualifiers returning from the 2021 season include (from left) Austin Allen, Dallas Page, Danette Leenderts, Tess Van Maanen, Ethan Kruger and Jacob Axness. (Samantha McGaffee photo/0407 spring sports HBC track girls)

Patriots girls' and boys' golf
teams prepare for 2022 season

**By Dalton Bass
For the Star Herald**

The Patriots golf team welcomes back a number of golfers who participated in the Section meet last year, including two girls and three boys.

Tess Van Maanen and Danette Leenderts return to the Lady Patriots. Van Maanen qualified for the state golf tournament in 2018 and 2019 while just narrowly missing that mark last year.

The boys return Dallas Page, Ethan Kruger and Jacob Axness from the Patriots team that placed 10th in section competition.

Coach Dan Ellingson reflected on his expectations for the Patriot golfers this upcoming season and

where he thinks they line up in the Red Rock Conference.

"On the girls' side, Tess Van Maanen is looking to return to state after missing it last year by one stroke," Ellingson said.

"Also, we are hoping to have a couple of underclassmen (girls) to work their way to varsity so we can field a team for conference and section competition."

Rounding out the girls' golf roster are sophomore Taylor Spykerboer and eighth-graders Mya Erickson and Abby Olson.

The H-BC boys are returning four of the top six golfers from last year when they accomplished a third-place finish in the conference. They include Page, Kruger,

Axness and Austin Allen. Thomas Dysthe graduated last spring and Damion Meinerts moved.

The Patriots look to build on the experience of some upperclassmen to help them put together another successful golf season.

Rounding out the boys' roster are seniors Daniel Martinyuk and Robbie Drake and junior Anthony Beaner.

"It will be a challenge to unseat Adrian/Ellsworth as conference champions who return five of their top six," Ellingson said about the boys' season prospects.

"WWG and HLOF now share golf, and they will try to finish in the top two in the conference along with H-BC."

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SPORTS

HILLS-BEAVER CREEK



H-BC TRACK

April 4	Luverne	A
April 7	MCC	A
April 9	Garretson	A
April 12	Luverne	A
April 19	Tracy-Milroy-Balaton	A
April 23	Pipestone	A
April 28	Worthington	A
May 3	Pipestone	A
May 5	MCC	A
May 6	Howard Wood Relays	A
May 7	Howard Wood Relays	A
May 9	True Team Sections	A
May 17	Worthington	A
May 19	Red Rock Conference	A
May 26	Sections	A
June 2	Sections	A
June 10	State	A

H-BC GIRLS' GOLF

April 5	Pipestone	A
April 9	Worthington Invitational	A
April 12	HLOF	A
April 14	Red Rock Central	A
April 19	Adrian	H
April 21	Luverne	H
April 25	Southwest Minnesota Christian	A
April 28	Westbrook/Walnut Grove Invitational	A
May 5	Red Rock Central Invitational	A
May 10	Mountain Lake Invitational	A
May 13	Westbrook/Walnut Grove	A
May 17	Red Rock Conference	A
May 19	Adrian	A
May 25	Sections	A
June 1	Sections	A

H-BC BOYS' GOLF

April 5	Pipestone	A
April 12	Heron Lake-Okabena	A
April 14	Red Rock Central	A
April 19	Adrian	H
April 21	Luverne	H
April 23	Worthington Invitational	A
April 25	Southwest Minnesota Christian	A
April 28	HLOF Invitational	A
May 5	MCC	A
May 10	Adrian Invitational	A
May 13	Westbrook/Walnut Grove	A
May 17	Red Rock Conference	A
May 19	Adrian	A
May 25	Sections	A
June 1	Sections	A

LUVERNE



BASEBALL

March 31	Adrian Area	A
April 5	Worthington	A
April 7	Blue Earth Area	A
April 11	Fairmont	A
April 12	Windom	H
April 19	Redwood Valley	H
April 21	Pipestone Area	A
April 25	Windom	A
May 3	Pipestone Area	H
May 5	St. James Area	H
May 9	Marshall	H
May 12	Jackson County Central	A
May 16	Adrian Area	H
May 17	Worthington	H
May 24	Murray County Central	A
May 28	Subsection	
May 31	Sections Quarters	
June 2	Section Semis	
June 4	Sectional Tournament	
June 7	Sectional Tournament	
June 9	Section Finals	

GOLF

April 5	Adrian	A
April 9	Worthington Invitational	A
April 12	Worthington	A
April 21	Hills-Beaver Creek	A
April 25	Big South Division (girls)	H
April 25	Big South Division (boys)	
	Redwood Valley	A
April 29	Pipestone	H
May 2	Big South Division (girls)	
	Marshall	A
May 2	Big South Division (boys)	
	Windom	A
May 3	SW MN Christian	H
May 9	Big South Division (girls)	
	Worthington	A
May 9	Big South Division (boys)	
	Pipestone	A
May 16	Big South Championship	
	Dacotah Ridge	A
May 25	Sections (girls)	
	Buffalo Lake-Hector	A
May 26	Sections (boys)	
	Buffalo Lake-Hector	A
June 1	Sections – Buffalo Lake-Hector	A
June 14-15	State Tournament	H

TRACK

April 4	Invitational	H
April 9	Brandon Valley	A
April 12	Invitational	H
April 18	Marshall Invitational	A
April 23	Pipestone Area Invitational	A
April 28	Worthington Invitational	A
May 3	Pipestone Area	A
May 6-7	Howard Wood Relays	A
May 9	Section Tournament	A
May 17	Worthington	A
May 21	Stillwater	A
May 26	Section 3A Meet	H
June 2	Sections	A
June 9 - 10	State Tournament	A

SOFTBALL

March 29	Adrian	H
April 8	Edgerton	H
April 12	Windom	A
April 19	Pipestone Area	H
April 22	Blue Earth Area	H
April 25	Fairmont	H
May 3	Jackson County Central	H
May 5	St. James Area	A
May 6	Adrian Area	A
May 12	Redwood Valley	A
May 14	Marshall	A
May 17	Worthington	A
May 19	Edgerton	A
May 24	Sections	A
May 28	Sections	A
May 31	Sections	A
June 2	Section Finals	A
June 9	State Quarters	A
June 10	State Finals	A

BOYS' TENNIS

April 5	Madison	H
April 8	Fairmont	A
April 9	Invitational St. James Area	A
April 18	Sioux Falls Lincoln	H
April 21	Blue Earth Area	H
April 23	Yellow Medicine East	H
	Montevideo	H
April 27	O'Gorman High School	H
April 28	Worthington	A
May 3	St. James Area	A
May 5	Redwood Valley	H
May 12	Pipestone Area	H
May 14	Benson	A
	Lac Qui Parle Valley	A
May 17	Big South Conference	A
May 21	Quad St. James Area	A
May 23	Team Section Tournament	A
May 24	Section Semis	A
May 26	Indiv. Section Redwood Valley	H
May 31	Indiv. Section Tournament Redwood Valley	H
June 8	State Tournament	
June 13	State Tournament	
June 14	State Tournament	

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Returning letter winners to the Luverne High School **boys' golf** team in 2022 are (from left) Tyler Arends, Brady Bork, Henry Hartquist, Owen Sudenga and Colin Schoeneman.

Luverne High School golf preview/continued from page 2B

Hoven, sophomore Tucker Banck and freshmen Levi Gonnerman, Jack Gangestad and Zach Overgaard all looking to compete for a varsity spot.

The **Luverne girls** also return most of their roster and look to build off of last year's success this season.

They finished in fourth place in the conference last season and also moved on to the second day of section play before finishing in fourth place out of 11 teams in Section 3AA.

Cardinal girls' coach, Chris Nowatzki, is excited about the group of players he has to work with this season.

"We lost a longtime varsity player with Paige Sandbulte graduating last year, but we will start with a varsity roster that includes all six players who have competed at the varsity level," Nowatzki said.

"We also have six or seven other players that have been on JV and have had many competitive rounds under their belts and a couple of new ones that have potential to join the competitive ranks. We should be able to be up and running from the get-go."

He said his goal for the team is to be competitive throughout the season.

"I also feel we are capable of improving as the season progresses so that when sections roll around, we have a good chance of making it to the second round. After that, who knows what might happen. The girls have a team goal of placing third or better at the section meet. That's only going to happen through some hard work, dedication, and determination to work at improving our games."

— Chris Nowatzki, LHS girls golf coach

"I also feel we are capable of improving as the season progresses so that when sections roll around, we have a good chance of making it to the second round," Nowatzki said.

"After that, who knows what might happen. The girls have a team goal of placing third or better at the section meet. That's only going to happen through some hard work, dedication, and determination to work at improving our games."

Top returners from last season include junior Lauren Hansen and senior Morgan Gonnerman who were both named to the Big South All-Conference team in 2021.

Gonnerman also had a strong showing at the section meet, which ultimately ended after losing in a playoff for the last remaining spot at the state tournament.

Other returning letter winners that the Cardinals will count on include senior Cheyenne Schutz, juniors Jocelyn Mann and Mallory Nelson and sophomore Perceyis Trierweiler.

The Cardinals will fill out their roster with seniors Brielle Watters, Olivia Huisman and Kayetlin Huiskes, juniors Mallory Von Tersch, Averill Sehr and Abby Anderson and sophomore Kiesli Smith.

Luverne track and field/ continued from page 1B

Sandbulte also ran with the Cardinal 4-by-200 team (fifth at state) and 4-by-400 team (eighth at state) and broke the Luverne school record in the 100-meter dash with 11.02 seconds (beating the 11.09 record set by Jon Ehde in 2013).

Eli Radtke, a Northern State University Track and Field commit, finished 12th in the pole vault and also ran on the 4-by-200 relay team with a fifth-place finish.

Camden Janiszeski, a junior, finished 10th in the 1600-meter at the 2021 state meet. Both Camden and his brother, Owen, could excel in any race from a 400- to a 3200-meter, depending on where their coach and dad wants them to compete.

The Cardinal boys' team has several returning section qualifiers, including Lucky Dara (200 meters), Owen Janiszeski (800 meters, 1600 meters), Sage Viessman (3200 meters), Jordan Friedrichsen (shot put), Tyler Rolfs (pole vault) and Noah Mehlhaff (pole vault).

Returning letter winners are senior Ethan Rahm, sophomores Ryan Fick, Zach Terrio, Gavin DeBeer, Dominic Barnett and Hunter Cope and freshman Leif Ingebretson.

The **Luverne girls** have had impressive success in True Team competition with past state championships in 2008, 2010, 2014, second-place finishes in 1989, 2009, 2013 and 2017, and third-place finishes in 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2016.

The Cardinal girls finished fifth at the state meet last year and have been perennial powers for years.

The Cardinal 4-by-800-meter relay team has won the last three state titles, and three of the four winning runners from last year are back this spring — junior Tenley Nelson and sophomores Tiana Lais and Jenna DeBates.

Nelson is committed to running cross country and track and field at Augustana University. At the state meet last year she also finished fifth in the 3200-meter and fifth with the 4-by-400 relay team that included Lais.

DeBates also finished sixth in the 3200-meter race at the state meet.

Jocelyn Hart placed fourth in shot put at state and also threw discus in the section meet.

Sarah Stegenga and Isabella Oye were 10th in the 4-by-200 relay at state.

Those two ran in the 4-by-100 relay at the section meet with Mia Wenzel and Anna Banck.

Stegenga also competed in the 200 meters and Oye in the 100 meters at the section meet.

Other returning section qualifiers include Elizabeth Wagner (800 meters, high jump), Cassi Chesley (800 meters), Ella Schmuck (800 meters), Grace Ingebretson (1600 meters), Maria Rops (1600 meters), Kayla Bloemendaal (1600 meters, high jump), Jadyn Hart (shot put, discus), Alexis Hultgren (pole vault), Makena Nelson (long jump) and Kendra Thorson (long jump, triple jump).

Returning letter winners include junior Josie Anderson, sophomores Roselynn Hartshorn, Addison Huiskes, Abby Boltjes, Brynn Boyenga, Joelia Lopez and Rayann Remme and freshmen Andrea Luitjens and Hailey Como.

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