

2021 UD WINTER SPORTS GUIDE



Nov. 17, 2021



Perspective: Neither Rain, Nor Sleet, Nor A Broken Tooth ...

I've seen some pretty gnarly things both in real life and on the movie screen, and recent circumstances have made me appreciate good teeth.

Have you seen "American History X"? This movie had some really dark themes and overall, presented a strong message about overcoming racism. However, the one scene that has stuck with me all these years was the one in which the main character, played by Edward Norton, curb-stomps the dude's face, shattering every tooth in his head.

No, I wasn't hurt in that fashion, and I didn't stomp someone's head into a curb, though I'd be lying if I had never considered it.

That changed recently after a drawn-out experience with a troublesome tooth.

A while ago, as I enjoyed a can of sliced black olives (right from the can), my enjoyment turned to startled pain and then anger as a pit somehow managed to avoid the slicer and wound up in my mouth.

Yes, the olives were sliced!

Yet this thing that looked like a miniature asteroid cracked a rear molar but fortunately, I didn't swallow the pit. I can't speak to the bit of enamel that was sheared off but I had to stop eating my olives. That was a tragedy.

In the aftermath, I realized there was a very sharp piece of tooth after the remainder had been removed.

You ever spend time taking a trip around your mouth with your tongue?

I do it now and again because it's interesting to see how far my tongue will reach.

In this case, I realized the sharp edge was going to be a problem but I'm stubborn, for those who have never met me.

I let it go for about a week, thinking it would become just another part of my oral landscape.

However, I began to taste blood, which is rarely a good thing. This craggy tooth was cutting my cheek and I decided it was time to have the dentist take a look at it.

What's the worst that could happen, right?

Well, that's a hypothetical question you should never ask because the answer is always worse than you expect. That might be one of Murphy's Laws and if it's not, it should be.

My dentist took a look and discovered that this tooth had some issues beyond the fact that part of it was missing and the remaining edge was carving my cheek like I refused to give up my wallet.

I had a couple of options, the first being to fill the cavity that was forming and the second was a root canal.

There was no pressure to decide and in the meantime, the dentist bought me a little time by filing down the sharp portion of the tooth. At least it wasn't cutting me then, but I didn't want to make a decision on the rest of it.

Frankly, I've not had the best relationship with purveyors of the dental craft.

When I was young, I looked forward to my birthday because I got a new toothbrush. I felt a little bad for my siblings because as the oldest, everything started with me and then went down. So I passed my toothbrush to my sister, who in turn passed hers along.

If you believe that, I have a nice piece of land in California to sell you.

We did have hand-me-downs and even as the oldest, I was not immune because I have an older cousin whose clothes made their way to me.

But for dental, hygiene, etc., we were not so primitive.

Having said that, we didn't have dental insurance and I don't recall going to the dentist regularly. We used county services when something went wrong.

Their motto was, "Take the tooth!"

It was like they had a deal with the Tooth Fairy and worked on consignment.

Oh, I don't remember any kind of pain management either, so when in high school I smashed my mouth with a baseball bat, the last thing I wanted to do was visit the butcher's shop.

I knew they would just take that tooth and there would be no replacement. I would just have a gaping hole in my lower jaw.

Fine, I'll tell you how I managed to hit myself in the face with a bat.

As a member of the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), I thought it was a good idea to join the drill team.

We had to learn how to march with rifles, spinning and twirling them. I was actually pretty good at it but I couldn't take the rifle home with me.

That left me to practice with a bat, and I was always tossing it around, trying to mimic the movements of the rifle.

One day at a park with the family there I was tossing and spinning this Louisville Slugger and I missed a catch.

The barrel of the bat hit me right in the mouth and sheared a lower tooth just about in half from top to bottom.

Until that moment, I had only experienced severe pain a few times but I knew it was bad.

Of course, with the feelings I had about the county dental outfit, I kept it to myself the best I could.

When I got home, I used a pair of tweezers to pull out the loose shards of enamel and hoped for the best.

That process took several days and even later, I would feel a piece of broken tooth slip free and I would spit it out.

Having an exposed tooth like that is not fun. The pain continued for a long time but again, I didn't like the alternative, so I just dealt with it.

Eventually, the tooth settled and I still have it. Every time I look at my teeth in the mirror, I think about how it became the

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**Neal A. Johnson, Sports
Editor**

**Warden Publishing
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smile of an orc and I smile.

That was going through my head when I realized a couple of weeks ago that what remained of my broken tooth had again formed a dagger that was cutting my cheek.

Alas, it was time to do something about it.

Over the years, I have had a love-hate relationship with dentists but the folks at Huntline Dental Group in Westphalia have been good to me.

Because of sensitive teeth, I always get extra numbing agent, so much so that after a cleaning, I can't feel my face for a few hours. It's good stuff, whatever they use.

When I sat in the chair, I contemplated whether it would be better to have the dentist pull the tooth or have some thug curb-stomp my head in the parking lot.

I tried to get them to put me under for the procedure but they said they couldn't do it. Only an oral surgeon could do it, they said. Likely story.

Instead, they jabbed me several times and after a while, I couldn't feel the right side of my head.

As extractions go, I guess it was normal. She had to drill down and split the tooth before pulling each piece out.

It's an interesting sensation to feel the pressure but no pain. When she pulled out the vice-grips, I was a little concerned.

I'm teasing. They were pliers of some kind but not like the big grippers my dad used when I was a kid.

Like the rest of me, my teeth are stubborn, and it took some doing to break the tooth from the jaw. I thought for a minute she would have to get a crowbar for leverage.

Eventually, I heard the crack as the tooth was separated from its home of 50 years. Well, 49 years or so.

That extraction ranks up there with one of the least pleasurable things I've ever done and it happened as I was going into the week of interviews for this special section.

It was difficult at times to communicate because talking exacerbated my pain but I'm not a quitter.

After a week, the pain was worse and I had visions of meeting an oral surgeon that would have to do something drastic.

Instead, I returned to Huntline, and to ensure proper healing, a thin layer over the empty socket was reopened with a sharp instrument. Maybe an awl, I don't know.

All I do know is that this procedure was done without the benefit of a painkiller but I got through it. The bad news? I was told to brush aggressively, irritate the socket and draw blood to promote healing.

I had never heard of that approach but I'm convinced it worked as the pain has all but vanished.

My tongue visits are more interesting now. It's like I'm touring a wooden fence and suddenly find a plank missing.

Through it all, I enjoyed my visits around the county. I am sad the Chamois girls will not have a basketball team this year due to a lack of players but hopefully, the team will resume play next year.

Welcome to new Linn coach Braden Ham, who impressed me with his philosophy. We have a great group of players and coaches around the county and I'm excited about the upcoming season.

See you at the game. NAJ

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GOOD LUCK

Wildcats, Comets
and Pirates

Pirates return 3 seniors, Bates optimistic this year

Chamois returns three seniors to the boys' basketball team and Coach Robbie Bates is optimistic that this experience and the improvements he's seen since last year will give the Pirates an opportunity to vie for a district title.

"These seniors know how close they were last year," said Bates, in his second year with the Pirates. "They have taken steps to fill the gaps left with the seniors who graduated last year, and their leadership will be important."

Chamois battled in a low-scoring Class 1, District 10 semifinal but came up just short last year in a 30-28 loss to Higbee on the road.

"We held Higbee to half the points they were averaging a game," said Bates following that contest. "We simply struggled on the offensive end, and we did not take advantage of some opportunities to get the ball inside when it was available."

Senior Mason Lamb (6-0 guard) was key in that game as he held Higbee's best scorer to zero points. "He went on to score 30 in the championship, so I was very pleased," said Bates. "Mason has come a long way over the summer offensively, and he'll be a threat on the wing and around the basket. He's a versatile player and I expect he'll be matched up with the best opponents with the job of keeping them off the board."

Senior Caine Schaben, (5-9) who had been the team's point guard, will play off the ball this year though he'll have some ball-handling duties. "He did a good job but this will make him better as we look for him to score more," said Bates. "He'll be a



COACH ROBBIE Bates lays out his expectations for practice on Friday.

solid defensive player too, and he can rebound. Our ability to guard will be better. He really stepped up over the summer and I think that will continue."

Eli Paulsmeyer (6-1 forward) is the third senior. "He's made big strides since last year," said Bates. "He's more aggressive and his ability to score has improved tremendously. His presence around the basket and rebounding are better too. It's night and day compared to last year."

The team's lone junior is Tyler Brandt, a 5-11 guard, who played his freshman year but did not suit up last season. "He'll give us depth on the perimeter and has the potential to be a solid ball-handler and defender," said Bates. "He can shoot from the outside when he gets his feet set. I'm pleased with his energy and progress."

Sophomore Aaron Kirsch likewise did not play last year and is doing his best to catch up. "He has a chance to show a lot of improvement," Bates said. "He works hard

every day in practice as he learns the system."

Five freshmen round out the squad, with Caleb Keilholz (5-9) taking the role of point guard for the conceivable future.

"Caleb is one of those players I've come to realize is consistent, day in and day out," said Bates. "There's no up or

See Chamois
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Senior Spotlight Questions

- 1) What are you looking forward to most as a senior this year?
- 2) What is your personal goal this season?
- 3) What is your goal for the team?
- 4) Who is your role model and why?
- 5) What does sportsmanship mean to you?
- 6) What are your plans after graduation?

Lady Pirates will not play basketball this year

Chamois will not field a girls basketball team this year due to a lack of players.

Coach John Leach said he's disappointed but hopes the team will return to action next year.

Follow the UD for all the boys' action this season.



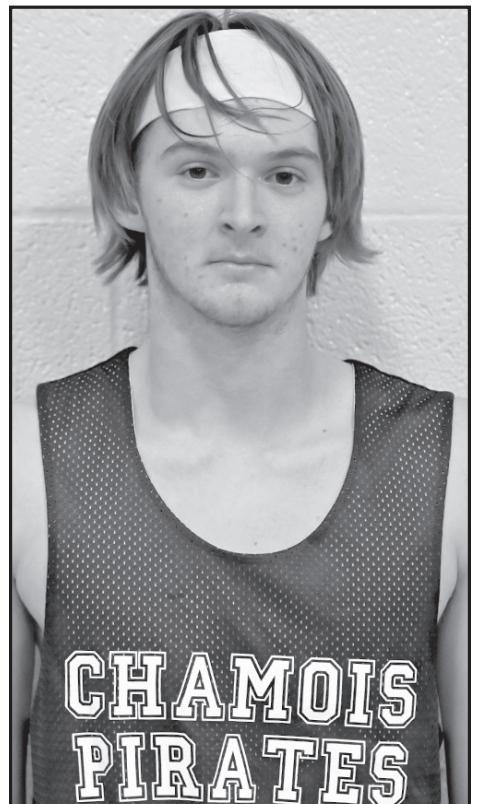
Caine Schaben

- 1) To win a district championship and get my name on a banner.
 2) To be a team leader and develop the younger guys.
 3) To advance past districts.
 4) Mr. Burkett. He pushes me every day and always makes me get job done.
 5) I believe you should just play the game and have fun instead of elbowing and yelling.
 6) I plan to attend State Tech and get a good job.



Eli Paulsmeyer

- 1) To finish off my high school career and move on to better things.
 2) I want to massively improve from last year.
 3) To win a district title.
 4) Both of my older brothers. They have been a big part of raising me since I was a child.
 5) Being able to respect your opponent while still being able to compete.
 6) I plan to attend Mizzou for Ag Business and work on the family farm.



Mason Lamb

- 1) Districts, and maybe a district winning run.
 2) To be the best I can be and be a leader on the court.
 3) State baby.
 4) John Leach. He is a dedicated man and never misses school, and sets a good example for the kids.
 5) Playing hard while still respecting everyone on the court.
 6) I plan to State Tech for aviation mechanics and move to Alaska.

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Chamois
From Page 3B

down with him. You're going to get his best every time. He will take care of the ball and lead the offense. Caleb knows when to attack and when to pass, and over time, he'll develop into a solid scoring threat."

Skyler Bottoms, a 5-11 forward, is a threat near the basket on both ends of the court. "He's made progress from his eighth-grade year and he's learning to be more consistent. He knows what it takes to be a solid player. Skyler has the potential to guard everywhere on the court."

Landen Northway (5-8 forward) has depth in the post and is working hard to improve. "I love having him in the program because he wants what's best for the team. He's learning his role and what he can do to make the team better."

Rounding out the freshman group is William Kirsch, a 5-8 forward currently recovering from an injury. Bates expects him to rejoin the team in January.

"When he gets back, he'll bring energy to the team," said Bates. "He can guard multiple positions and his offensive effort will get him time on the floor."

Kirsch will focus on being a good backup post player as he works on his perimeter role.

Of these nine players, seven have played for Bates, either in JH or at the high school level. "I know them pretty well," he said. "They know me as well, and making the move from junior high to high school is an easy transition because they don't have to learn a new system. It also allows me to add layers to our defensive schemes."

On the whole, Bates said if the team can hold opponents to below 50 points, there's a good chance the Pirates can win a lot of games. "We play a very tough schedule and it's not so much the wins and losses along the way, but how we perform at districts," he said. "Our schedule will get us ready, especially since we're the smallest school in the conference, which means we're playing bigger schools all year. We have the potential to put points on the board with more people scoring. Last year, teams focused on Nate Nolte and tried to shut him down. With several players that can score, they won't be able to focus on one guy."

Last year, the Pirates finished with a 5-11 record and nearly made it to the district championship game.

"We may not have the best record but we're going to be very competitive in every contest," said Bates. "It will make for an exciting season, and we'll be fun to watch."

Chamois opens the year with a game at home against Vienna on Nov. 23, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
11/16	Linn Jamboree	Away	5:00 pm
11/23	Vienna	Home	7:30 pm
11/29-12/4	Tipton Tournament	Away	
12/6	South Callaway	Home	7:30 pm
12/7	Wellsville-Middletown (Wellsville, MO)	Away	7:30 pm
12/11	Belle (Belle, MO)	Away	3:30 pm
12/16	New Bloomfield	Home	7:30 pm
12/20	Hermann (Hermann, MO)	Away	6:00 pm
12/20	Hermann (Hermann, MO)	Away	
12/28	Calvary Lutheran (Jefferson City, MO)	Away	5:30 pm
1/3-8	Salisbury Invitational (Salisbury, MO)	Neutral	
1/11	Eugene	Home	7:30 pm
1/14	Tuscumbia	Home	7:30 pm
1/17-22	Belle Tournament (Belle, MO)	Neutral	
1/24	St. Elizabeth	Home	7:30 pm
2/1	New Haven (New Haven, MO)	Away	7:30 pm
2/8	Jamestown (Jamestown, MO)	Away	7:30 pm
2/11	Linn (Linn, MO)	Away	7:30 pm
2/15	Fatima	Home	7:30 pm
2/17	Russellville (Russellville, MO)	Away	7:30 pm



PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

CALEB KEILHOLZ will debut his high school career as the Chamois point guard.



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Ham takes the helm of senior-laden Linn boys squad

Linn coach Braden Ham didn't know what to expect when he took over the boys basketball program earlier this year but his experience has been "better than amazing" and he is looking forward to a solid year on the hardwood.

"From Day 1, I've been blown away by the willingness of parents to be flexible with scheduling and the support has been incredible," he said. "The kids have been very coachable and the parents have made it easy on me. The people here are great and have been very good to me, especially as an outsider."

Ham hails from the southwest area of Missouri, graduating from Neosho and returning as an assistant coach for three years after getting his start at Silex in the 2014-15 season.

"I gained valuable experience at Silex but I wanted to get back to this area," said Ham, who spent the 2017-18 season as head coach at Kirksville. "I'm somewhat familiar with Jefferson City and this area, and I'm very pleased to be here."

After developing a summer schedule on the fly, Ham began to build relationships with his players ahead of this winter's season.

"My patience was really tested when I took over the junior high program," said Ham. "I hadn't coached that level before this year, and truthfully, it made me a better coach. I wanted to be creative with our plays but I had to make sure the kids understood what I wanted them to do. Mainly, I wanted them to understand accountability to themselves and each other, which are qualities they'll use later in life."

Between the summer months and fall JH schedule, Ham and his players became accustomed to each other.

"They all understand where I'm coming from and where I want this team to go," he said. "We had pretty good participation over the summer and I'm excited about the winter season."

About 90% of the kids on the roster took part in summer camps and other activities, and this group has formed the core of Wildcats expected to fill out the varsity roster.

Ham said he expects the team to be more of an offensive-oriented squad though he's not looking to shoot the lights out.

"I'm not expecting to score 70 or 80 points a night," he said. "We're still going to work our butts off on defense. You can hustle on every play and even if someone is not a great defensive player, they can be functional if they hustle and work hard."

That being said, Ham added that a few players can shoot any time, and several are good ball-handlers. "We'll have some flexibility, which will be fun to watch," he said. "We want to push the ball but play with control."

Linn finished the 2020-21 season at 16-9 with a sectional loss to Monroe City. That team had eight seniors.

This year, Linn has five seniors.

Austin Grellner, a 5-10 guard, is a good shooter with a high release. "He can get down and guard but he also finishes well around the rim," said Ham. "We're working with him to improve his communication, but Austin is a strong player and a good teammate."

Keagan Heywood (5-11 guard), the team's only left-handed shooter, is one of the better passers on the team. "He provides a spark for his teammates," said Ham. "He can really juice them up. While he doesn't have a big vertical, Keagan is a solid



LINN SENIOR Aidan Kline drives between two defenders during a recent practice.

PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

Linn Boys Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Levels	Time
11/19	Iberia (Iberia, MO)	Away	V	7:30 PM
11/20	Belle	Home	JV, Fr	10:00 AM
11/22	Eldon (Eldon, MO)	Away	V, JV, Fr	5:00 PM
11/29-12/4	35th Annual Eugene Basketball Tournament (Osage, MO)	Neutral	V	
12/7	Hermann	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
12/10	Owensville	Home	V	7:00 PM
12/13-18	Linn Invitational (Linn, MO)	Home	V	
12/21	Helias Catholic	Home	Fr	6:00 PM
12/23	California (California, MO)	Away	V, JV, Fr	1:00 PM
1/3	Southern Boone (Ashland, MO)	Away	V, JV, Fr	5:00 PM
1/3	Southern Boone (Ashland, MO)	Away	V, JV, Fr	5:00 PM
1/14	Eugene	Home	V	7:30 PM
1/18	Blair Oaks (Jefferson City, MO)	Away	V, JV	6:00 PM
1/21	New Bloomfield (New Bloomfield, MO)	Away	V, JV	6:00 PM
1/24-29	Hermann Invitational (Hermann, MO)	Neutral	V	
2/4	South Callaway (Mokane, MO)	Away	V, JV	5:00 PM
2/7-12	South Callaway JV Boys Basketball Tournament (Mokane, MO)	Neutral	JV	
2/8	Russellville	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
2/10	St. Elizabeth	Home	V, JV	
2/11	Chamois	Home	V	7:30 PM
2/14	Tuscumbia	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
2/17	Fatima (Westphalia, MO)	Away	JV	7:30 PM
2/18	Fatima (Westphalia, MO)	Away	V, JV	6:00 PM

Lady Wildcats rebuilding this year with 11 players

Linn girls basketball coach Brandi Moore said this will be a rebuilding year with the loss of several players who saw a lot of playing time last season.

"I'm excited to see who will take advantage of the opportunities with new positions opening up," said Moore, who will be assisted this year by Coach Ron Lebel. "We'll look a little different this year but I'm expecting us to have success."

Linn (13-10, 3-3) ended last season with a second-place finish at the Class 3, District 8 tournament at Stover in a 62-41 loss to Tipton.

This season opens with three seniors, guards Hannah Hall (5-4), Macci Blauvelt

(5-4), and Ellie Monnette (5-4).

Hall brings some quickness to the team. "She's a good shot a pretty good defender," said Moore. "She can handle the ball too and I look for her to be involved with our passing game."

Blauvelt has been shooting well from the outside and working hard on defense. "She does a good job creating space for her shot," Moore added.

Monnette is a very aggressive defensive player. "She's not afraid to get physical and fight for the ball," said Moore. "She hustles all the time and puts herself in a good position for rebounds."

Junior Aushara Hostetler (5-8), led the

team with 16.4 points and 5.5 rebounds per game while hitting 60% from the line and 34% from three-point range.

"She is a strong all-around player," said Moore. "Aushara leads by example and has improved her vocal leadership as well. I look for her to be our leading scorer again."

Hostetler earned first-team Central Missouri Sportswriters & Sportscasters Association and second-team All-Conference honors last year.

Fellow junior Autumn Baker (5-6) also brings experience from last year's second-place district finish. "She's very athletic and quick, and aggressive on defense," said

Moore. "Her ball skills and shooting are improving, and her athleticism will be showcased in our press defense this year."

There are no sophomores on the team this year.

Freshmen include 5-8 guards Kiana Hostetler and Vivien Baker, Emma Monnette (5-6 guard), Kylie Peters (5-4 guard), Hannah Hackmann (5-6 guard), and 5-8 guard Natasha Jewell.

"As a group, these girls are working

**See Linn Girls
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PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

ASSISTANT COACH Ron Lebel stresses the importance of communication during a press at Monday's practice as the Lady Wildcats prepare to enter the season.

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**Hannah Hall**

1) Making memories with my friends and graduating together.
 2) To make the most of it and have fun with my teammates.
 3) To improve our skills every day.
 4) My parents because they encourage me to be the best person I can be. They set a great example for the person I hope to become.
 5) Being encouraging to all players and respectful of the refs and coaches.
 6) I plan to become a dietitian and may attend Missouri State University.

**Macci Blauvelt**

1) Graduating, because I have senioritis.
 2) To have a good last go-round with my team.
 3) To have a memorable season.
 4) My dad. I look up to him because he teaches me a lot of life lessons, along with a love for basketball.
 5) Always being a good teammate.
 6) I plan to study nursing.

**Ellie Monnette**

1) Making memories, and enjoying my last year with classmates and teammates before going to college.
 2) Being a supportive teammate that other players can rely on, and improving my free-throw percentage.
 3) Working together every day on and off the court.
 4) My mom, because she is encourages me to make the most out of every day.
 5) Having ethical, polite behavior whether winning or losing.
 6) I plan to attend Mizzou and major in Biochemistry.

**Keagan Heywood**

1) I'm looking forward to making great memories with great people and the experience of my senior year.
 2) I want to be a key player that helps our whole team and program grow.
 3) I want to play together and unselfish and see how far we go.
 4) My mom. People always say their mom, but I have grown up with my mom being both of my parents. I wouldn't be where I am without her and all of her sacrifices.
 5) Always being respectful toward your teammates and opponents.
 6) I plan to attend either William Woods University or Lincoln University to study architecture.

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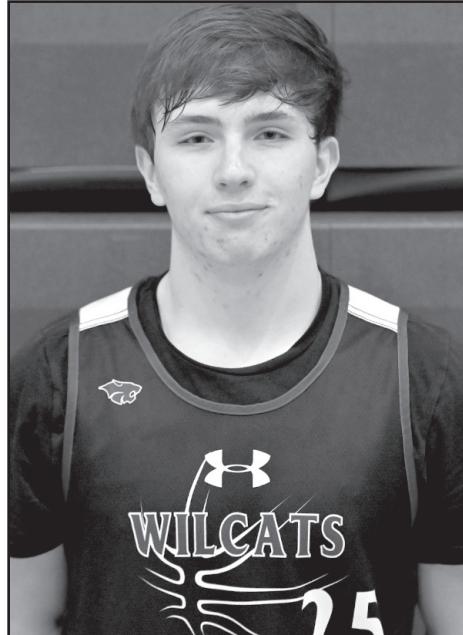
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Senior Spotlight Questions

- 1) What are you looking forward to most as a senior this year?
- 2) What is your personal goal this season?
- 3) What is your goal for the team?
- 4) Who is your role model and why?
- 5) What does sportsmanship mean to you?
- 6) What are your plans after graduation?

**Austin Wolfe**

- 1) Watching the underclassmen attempt to get us gifts for senior night. I love these boys to death but they aren't the most coordinated bunch so it'll be fun to see what they come up with.
- 2) To leave a lasting impression and help develop the younger players.
- 3) To prove to everyone this isn't a rebuilding year.
- 4) My grandpa Wolfe because he showed me how to work hard regardless of the rough and easy times.
- 5) The ability to want nothing more than to beat your opponent and still offer a hand to help them up.
- 6) To study Agribusiness Management at Missouri State University.

**Austin Grellner**

- 1) Leading the team and helping the younger kids develop. Seniors helped me grow as a player when I was an underclassman so it only feels right for me to pass it on.
- 2) Catch some fat dubs with the boys.
- 3) To grow as players and win districts.
- 4) My parents. They push me to perform to the best of my ability. They're some cool cats.
- 5) It means taking pride in your team through wins and losses.
- 6) Attend ECC next year, finish my associate's degree, and transfer to Mizzou the following year.

**Morgan Strope (Cheer)****Kristen Arlen (Cheer Manager)**

- 1) I look forward to graduating and starting a new chapter in my life.
- 2) To help all my teammates in one way or another and to teach them from my past experience.
- 3) I want my team to be supportive of each other and grow as a family, and for them to always try their hardest and not let the opinions of others affect them.
- 4) My grandma Wiegand because she has always been there for me when I need to talk, and has always had a shoulder to cry on. She is such a strong woman and never gives up.
- 5) It means being there for each other and always trying your hardest no matter what.
- 6) I plan to attend college but I'm not sure what I'll study.

**Dillon Blauvelt**

- 1) Having one more year with my friends and my last year playing basketball.
- 2) To help out the boys the best I can.
- 3) Winning districts.
- 4) Terry Shepherd. He always puts everyone in a good mood and pushes everyone to be the best they can be.
- 5) Being respectful toward your teammates and opponents.
- 6) To enter the State Tech Nursing Program.

**Aidan Kline**

- 1) Competing against some of the top teams in mid-Missouri and possibly winning our district.
- 2) Score 500 points, average a double-double, and get All-State.
- 3) Winning a district championship.
- 4) My dad, because he always has made sure we have had the best life possible no matter the circumstances.
- 5) Respecting teammates and players on the opposing team.
- 6) Possibly play sports in college or go into the workforce.

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Linn Boys
From Page 6B

presence inside on both sides of the ball."

Dillan Blauvelt at 5-10 is a productive guard. "He's unique in that although he's not a big kid, he's always in the right place defensively," said Ham. "He's very smart, especially on defense. He does things before you think to ask. He's always watching and you can tell the gears are turning. I've been impressed with his recognition and reaction. There's no delay."

Austin Wolfe (5-8 guard) gets after it on defense. "He's a Tasmanian devil," said Ham. "He's a firecracker and very competitive. Austin has worked on his shot and he's super quick. His hustle has been impressive and there's always a place for a guy who works his tail off."

Aidan Kline, a 6-4 forward, can jump and with his build and strength, will be a solid defender. "He's worked hard in the weight room, which is a skill, putting on weight," said Ham. "He wants to win, and he's long, which will make him an intimidating defender. Aidan is a team-first



PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

LINN COACH Braden Ham outlines a play as the Wildcats work on zone defense.

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kind of guy who wants everyone to do well."

Linn's lone junior is Zach Dodson, a 6-1 forward who is athletic and strong. "He's wiry and a great cutter," said Ham. "Zach is becoming more of a passer but he has a nice soft touch around the rim. With his size and speed, he'll give us some flexibility in our matchups."

Sophomore Noah Hall (5-10) will be the team's starting point guard but he will also play the wing at times in transition. "He's a smooth operator with good handles," said Ham. "Noah dribbles well and his shot is pretty. He has good vision and body control, especially around the iron. He maintains that control, which is very important to what we're trying to do. He's working hard on defense and has the

ability to become a great defender."

Sophomore Ashton Keilholz, a 5-10 guard, and 6-1 forwards sophomores Zach Hatfield and Seth Wolfe will play JV but will see time at varsity. "I want them to play together on JV but also get comfortable at the varsity level," said Ham.

Players on the JV roster are sophomores Curtis Deeken (5-10), Jett Maassen (5-6), Hank Klouzek (5-9), and Britt Winslow (5-11), and freshmen Austin Dudenhoefner (5-10), Bobby Winkelman (5-9), Devon Brandt (5-8), and Trevor Brandt (5-8).

"These guys are working hard at every practice," said Ham, who is assisted by Mike Nolting. "Mike is doing a great job with them, and they are responding well to what we're developing as a program."

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PHOTOS BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

NOAH HALL will be the starting point guard for the Wildcats. Above right, Keagan Heywood pulls up for a short jumper.



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FAITH MCKIM stands atop the formation as Linn cheerleaders work on drills during a recent practice.

Linn cheer has several returners

Linn has several returning cheerleaders and a couple of new team members under the direction of Coach Diann Churchill.

"We are excited to train the new girls and continue building our skills," said Churchill.

This year, the Lady Cats have added the Linn Christmas Parade to the schedule and plan to perform with the Linn High School band. They are planning to do game cheering as well as several in-game performances, with the hope of adding more in the future.

Team members are seniors Morgan Strope and Kristen Arlen (manager), juniors Leighann Horan, Faith McKim, Cortney Nichols, Brittney Chapman, and Ashton Johnson (manager), sophomores Virginia "Reece" Griffith and Katrina Mueller, and freshman Vanessah Bischoff.



PHOTOS BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

MORGAN STROPE makes her approach in a cartwheel drill.

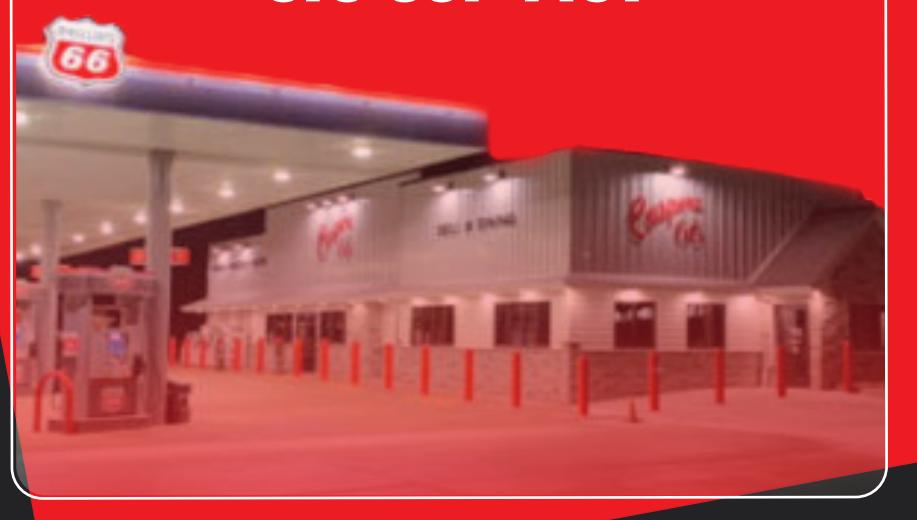
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Linn Girls
From Page 7B

hard and learning quickly," said Moore.

K. Hostetler is a good ball-handler. "She has a high basketball IQ and can shoot the ball well," said Moore. "She sees the floor better and her anticipation skills on defense will give us some good opportunities."

V. Baker, like her sister, enjoys playing physical ball. "She'll be important to our rebounding effort," said Moore. "Her physical presence on both sides of the ball should make a difference and she will be a solid defensive player."

E. Monnette is quick with a decent shot. "She is another aggressive player I'm excited about," said Moore. "She's not afraid to get in there and mix it up."

Peters, meanwhile, is very coachable and will add an element of quickness to the floor.

Hackmann is on the injured list but once she is healthy, Moore said she'll be one to watch. "She is a very smart player and a good shooter," the coach said. "All around, she gets after it, and I look for her to be a solid defensive player and rebounder."

Jewell as one of the taller players will be tasked with rebounding and inside defensive effort. "She's got size and can be a contributor to our overall play around the basket," said Moore.

Linn will open the season on the road at 6 p.m. Nov. 19 at Iberia.

**Good luck this fall
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to the Linn Wildcats,
Comets, and Pirates
on a great season!*

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Linn Girls Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Levels	Time
11/19	Iberia (Iberia, MO)	Away	V	6:00 PM
11/29-12/4	35th Annual Eugene Basketball Tournament (Osage, MO)	Neutral	V	
12/9	Belle	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
12/10	Owensville	Home	V	6:00 PM
12/13-18	Linn Invitational (Linn, MO)	Home	V	
1/4	Osage	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
1/6	Blair Oaks	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
1/14	Eugene	Home	V	6:00 PM
1/18	New Haven (New Haven, MO)	Away	V, JV	6:00 PM
1/24-29	Harrisburg Tournament (Harrisburg, MO)	Neutral	V	
2/3	New Bloomfield	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
2/4	South Callaway (Mokane, MO)	Away	V	6:00 PM
2/7	Russellville (Russellville, MO)	Away	V, JV	6:00 PM
2/10	St. Elizabeth	Home	V, JV	5:00 PM
2/11	Chamois	Home	V	6:00 PM
2/14	Tuscumbia	Home	V, JV	5:00 PM
2/17	Fatima (Westphalia, MO)	Away	V, JV	6:00 PM



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Robertson hopes a tough schedule prepares Comets for districts

Fatima coach Ryan Robertson is hopeful that a tough schedule will prepare the Comets for districts and a postseason run after ending 2020-21 in the district semis.

"Our schedule is as brutal as ever," he said. "We're not as worried about wins and losses because what matters is how we're playing come February, and I hope this pays dividends."

Entering the year with five seniors, Robertson is looking forward to a stronger showing.

"We're as excited as ever to get the season going," he said. "We feel the ceiling is up to us. We have a lot of experienced players back with good height and strong shooters."

Fatima will hang its hat on half-court man defense. "We'll press at times but for the most part, we want to run straight man-to-man," said Robertson. "Offensively, we'll do everything on straight motion with good shot selection. We're not going to rush into anything but players with proven shooting will have a green light to put up quick shots when the situation calls for it."

Senior Lee Verslues, who finished last season with career 1,023 points, scored nine in the game against St. James and will be a key to Fatima's offensive attack.

"He's one of the best point guards in central Missouri," said Robertson. "He has the experience, savvy, and work ethic that will provide great leadership from the point guard position."

Verslues earned Central Missouri Sportswriters & Sportscasters Association first-team All-District honors after scoring

15.6 points a game with 2.5 RPG, 2.8 APG, 2.4 SPG, while hitting 72.6% from the FT line and 30% three-point range. He was also named first-team All-Conference.

Senior Leo Peters (6-6) returns as the team's center after earning All-Conference honorable mention last year.

"He's been battling a knee injury but when healthy, Leo is a nightmare on the block for opponents," said Robertson. "He's an excellent defensive post player with some of the best offensive footwork on the team."

Peters averaged 8.4 points and five rebounds per game with two assists and a steal per contest.

Nate "Kevin" Lehmen (6-5), a senior forward, had one of the best off-season efforts of any player on the roster. "He's a super aggressive player and his effort has been through the roof," said Robertson. "He will be a force defensively and he's scoring on the block better than ever. I expect him to have a great season."

Lehmen averaged 7.6 points and 4.2 rebounds per game last year.

Senior Jacob Vanderfeltz at 6-2 is one of the best rebounders among recent Fatima players, Robertson said. "He creates a mismatch for teams, especially on the glass," the coach added. "He's another player that had a really strong off-season."

Vanderfeltz dealt with injury at times last year and finished with 1.5 points and 3.2 rebounds per contest.

Rounding out the senior class is Carson Schulte, a 5-7 guard. "He's a three-point marksman and a zone-buster," said Robertson. "We look to bring him in off the

bench to shoot teams out of their zone."

Leading the team last year offensively was junior Nate Brandt, a 6-3 guard who scored 17 points a game to go with 5.5 rebounds, three assists, and two steals per contest in earning Central Missouri Sportswriters & Sportscasters Association first-team All-District and first-team All-Conference honors.

"Nate is one of the premier scorers in the state," said Robertson. "He has added size and strength to an already polished skill set. He'll put up big numbers this year."

Fellow juniors are guards Jack Robertson (6-2), Cooper Kleffner (6-0), and Ty Fortson (5-10).

Robertson hit 34.5% from three-point range last year and has improved his range but defensively, he's a beast. "He's a lockdown defender and the first one on the floor," said Coach Robertson. "He's a glue kind of guy for this team."

Kleffner offers an improved offense and will range from point guard to the two-spot because of his ability to step out and hit the trey. "He's a smart player with one of the best basketball IQs on the team," said Robertson. "He'll do a good job handling the ball with Lee, and I expect him to put up some good numbers."

Kleffner finished last season with an average of 8.6 points per game with 3.4 rebounds, 3.6 assists, and 1.2 steals per contest.

Fortson saw time in 17 games last year and this year will be utilized as a backup point guard. "He brings a lot of energy to practice and he's tough," said Robertson.

"If the ball is in his area on defense, he'll create a lot of problems for other teams."

Two sophomores will suit up on varsity this year.

Levi Robinson, a 6-5 forward, is getting better with every practice. "He faces off against Lee and Kev every day in practice and that's making him stronger," said Robertson. "He can score off the block and creates mismatches that will help us."

Easton Haslag, a 6-1 guard, is what Robertson called the newcomer of the year thus far. "He's been excellent through the summer and fall," Robertson said. "He's very athletic and runs the floor well. Easton is a good shooter and he's a lockdown defender too."

Matthew "Munch" Robertson at 6-0 has had an impressive freshman debut during practice. "His effort is extraordinary and his ability to defend means he'll get some varsity minutes," Coach Robertson said.

Rounding out the varsity squad is freshman Max Stuecken, a 5-9 guard. "He's another zone-buster that shot well throughout the fall," said Robertson. "He has shown that he's not intimidated by the older kids and I think he's got a bright future."

Coming off an 18-8 season in 2020-21, Robertson said this year's success will come down to four things: shot selection, limiting turnovers, strong rebounding, and defensive commitment. "If we do those

See Fatima Boys
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Lady Comets brings talent, youth to the court

While Fatima has a lot of talented players suiting up for this year's girls basketball season, this is also a young team that will provide a lot of energy.

"We have a lot of juniors and sophomores in the mix this season," said Coach Matt Baker, whose team finished 19-8 last year after a loss in the district championship game to Blair Oaks. "A big group of these girls will give us consistency despite their youth because of the experiences they've had. As long as we can keep everyone focused and not overlooking teams, we can put together a good year."

Fatima lost several seniors to graduation and only two will don the Blue & Gold this year but both were a big part of last year's effort.

Senior forward Morgan Luebbering (6-1) averaged 13.4 points and seven rebounds per game while hitting 70% from the line, 26% from three-point range, and posting 29 blocks as she earned first-team Central Missouri Sportswriters & Sportscasters Association and All-Conference honors.

"Hopefully, she's healthy all year," said Baker. "She's shooting very well and will be our focal point for the year. She'll be double and triple-teamed a lot and she'll have to find the balance between finding cutters and shooters and scoring her own points."

Baker noted that Luebbering will need to score 16-18 points a night for the team to succeed. "She's our key," he added. "She'll need to stay out of foul trouble and above all, remain healthy. We want her to create a

presence in the paint from the start of every game."

Fatima's other senior is Anna Eichholz (5-6 guard). "She is high energy and can play all three guard positions," said Baker. "She's doing a good job of being a leader on this team, she's positive, and working hard. I'll find a way to get her as much time as possible. She is really good off the dribble and ball control will be the key for her."

Alli Robertson, a 5-7 junior guard, scored 7.7 points and grabbed 3.4 rebounds per contest last year on her way to earning second-team All-Conference last year.

"Alli will be a huge piece of the team's success this year," said Baker. "She's taller and stronger than last year and plays both sides of the ball very well. She's a good driver and finishes well at the rim. I love her competitiveness but that's a fine-edged sword. It's a lot easier to pull her back than push her forward so we'll need her to find a good balance."

Junior forward Ellie Brune (5-6) had a solid year, averaging 6.1 points, 2.9 rebounds, 1.1 assists, and 1.2 steals per game in 2020-21.

"Ellie is a very talented player," said Baker. "She's gonna earn her stripes in decision-making this year and she's arguably our best shooter. We'll need her to take good shots. Last year, we had some big wins when she played well, and I think



PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

KAITLYN PLASSMEYER maneuvers for a shot at a recent practice.

See Fatima Girls
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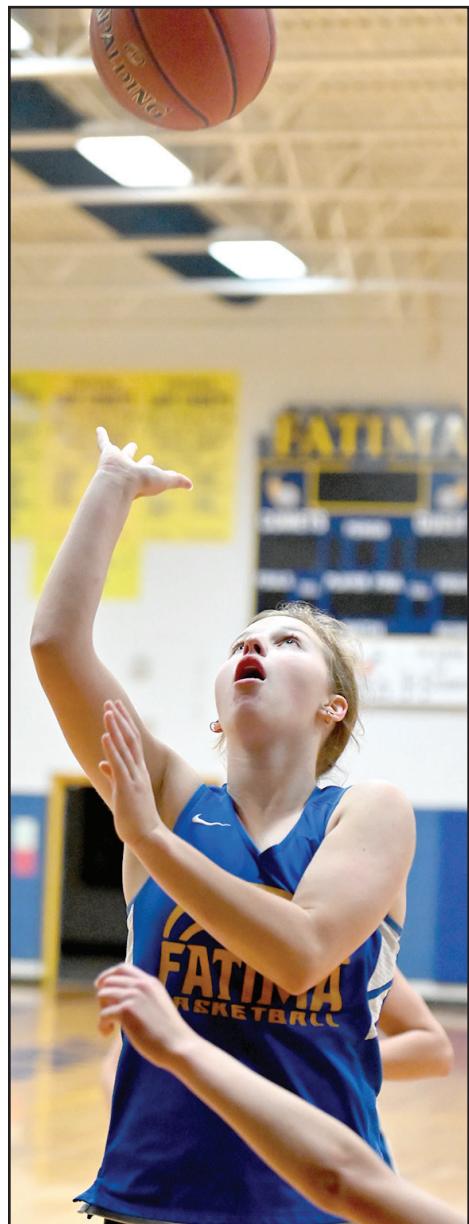


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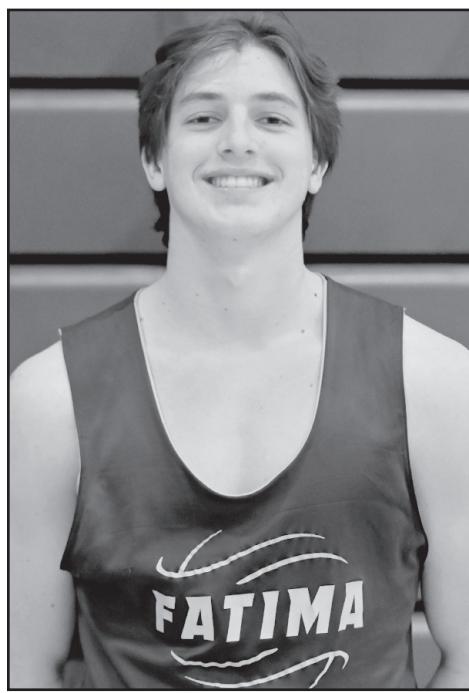
ANNA EICHHOLZ puts up a shot from short range in a recent scrimmage.



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**Leo Peters**

1) I look forward to a successful year with the team.
 2) To play as hard as I can for my team.
 3) To win a state championship.
 4) My parents, because they showed me how to work hard.
 5) Having respect for the game and for your opponents.
 6) I plan to attend Mizzou.

**Jacob Vanderfeltz**

1) Winning a state title with the guys I've been playing with for six-plus years.
 2) To stay healthy the entire season for once.
 3) To win districts and make a run for the state championship.
 4) My grandpa, who played football for Lincoln University. I am playing for him this year.
 5) Leaving everything on the court.
 6) I plan to study medical sciences at Mizzou.

**Carson Schulte**

1) I'm looking forward to seeing how far we can make it in districts because it would be awesome to win districts and see how far we can go.
 2) To help the team any way I can.
 3) To win a state championship.
 4) My dad, because he is a great person and supports me.
 5) It means to always have a great attitude and do what's best for your teammates and the team as a whole.
 6) I plan to attend college.

**Lee Verslues**

1) I am looking forward to home games when my family and friends are there watching me. I also look forward to districts because we have a good team this year so I'm hoping we will make it far.
 2) To average 20 points and make plays to get my teammates more involved. I'd also like to improve my defense.
 3) Our goal is very clear: to win state.
 4) My dad, because he taught me what hard work is, and he has always pushed me throughout my high school career. I also look up to all my coaches because they helped me improve my skills on the basketball court.
 5) It means respecting the opposing team and keeping your mouth shut on the court, and helping opposing players up.
 6) I plan to attend Westminster College or MSU.

Fatima Boys Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Levels	Time
11/23	Eldon	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
12/3	South Callaway	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
12/7	New Bloomfield	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
12/11	St. Francis Borgia	Neutral	V	
12/13	Father Tolton Regional Catholic	Home	V, JV, Fr	5:00 PM
12/17	Dixon	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
12/20	Blair Oaks	Home	JV	7:15 PM
12/21	Blair Oaks	Home	V	7:30 PM
1/3-8	Owensville Tournament (Owensville, MO)	Away	V	
1/10	St. James	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
1/12	Helias Catholic (Jefferson City, MO)	Away	V, JV	
1/14	Kickapoo	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
1/17-22	St. James Varsity Boys Basketball Tournament (St James, MO)	Neutral	V	
1/24-29	91st Annual Eldon Boys Basketball Tournament (Eldon, MO)	Neutral	V	
2/1	Tuscumbia (Tuscumbia, MO)	Away	JV, Fr	6:00 PM
2/4	St. Elizabeth (St. Elizabeth, MO)	Away	V, JV	6:00 PM
2/5	Charleston (Charleston, MO)	Away	V	8:30 PM
2/7-12	South Callaway JV Boys Basketball Tournament (Mokane, MO)	Neutral	JV	
2/8	Eugene	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
2/11	Russellville (Russellville, MO)	Away	V, JV	6:00 PM
2/15	Chamois (Chamois, MO)	Away	V	6:00 PM
2/17	Linn	Home	JV	7:30 PM
2/18	Linn	Home	V	7:30 PM

**Nate "Kevin" Lehmen**

1) Mostly being a leader on the team and trying to make my teammates the best they can be.
 2) My goal is to average 10 rebounds and eight assists a night.
 3) To play as hard as we can every game and leave everything on the court.
 4) Coach Robertson, because he pushes me and the whole team to be our best. He also gets the whole team fired up before games and makes us want it all.
 5) To me, it means staying humble and a good team player, and always doing what's right, like helping an opposing player up or keeping your teammates' heads high when they're having a bad game.
 6) I plan to pursue a degree in Nutrition and Exercise Physiology.

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Senior Spotlight Questions

- 1) What are you looking forward to most as a senior this year?
- 2) What is your personal goal this season?
- 3) What is your goal for the team?
- 4) Who is your role model and why?
- 5) What does sportsmanship mean to you?
- 6) What are your plans after graduation?



Hailey Dickneite
(Basketball Manager)

1) I am looking forward to homecoming, especially since I am on the homecoming court this year. Homecoming is so much fun and I can't wait to participate in everything this year as a senior!

2) To manage both girls' and boys' basketball teams without getting overwhelmed and overworked.

3) To win and beat teams that we may have lost against in the past.

4) My mom because she is always there for me when I need her and to give me advice. She is super creative and my best friend.

5) Sportsmanship means that we work together and even if we lose we congratulate the other team and are good sports about winning or losing.

6) I plan to attend college with a degree in Early Childhood Education.



Anna Eichholz

1) Playing one more year with my friends and teammates.

2) To be a leader on and off the court.

3) Wining a district title.

4) Paul Crede is my role model because he has taught me so much about basketball and he is a dedicated fan.

5) Sportsmanship is picking up your teammates when they are down, having a good attitude, and being coachable.

6) I plan to go to college to pursue a degree in the health sciences field.



Morgan Luebbing

1) I am looking forward to one last season making memories and playing with my teammates.

2) My goal is to be a team leader and work hard every day to get better.

3) To push each other every day to make ourselves better and win a district championship.

4) My role models would be my parents because they always encourage me to be my best even when things can get tough.

5) Sportsmanship means respect for others and being there for your teammates. Always pick them up and never bringing them down.

6) I plan to attend Missouri S&T to continue my basketball career and get a degree in Biology.

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Fatima returns two wrestlers from top-4 team

Fatima entered last season with one goal, to bring home a top-four banner at the conclusion of the state meet, and the Comets did just that, earning fourth place overall in Class 1 to end the 2020-21 campaign.

Senior Luke Schroeder (160-170) earned fourth, just missing a trip to state by one place.

Coach Kurt Strope said he would have been a state qualifier any other year. "It kind of stinks they only let the top three into the state tournament this year, when in years past they let in the top four," he said last year. "Having said that, Luke had a very good season."

This year, Schroeder is eager to earn a berth at state.

"He was a match away from state last year, and this season, we're looking for him to get to state and onto the podium," said Coach Strope. "He spent a lot of time in the weight room and attended several camps so he's in really good shape. I think he'll have a very good year."

Sophomore Cody Strope (106) is the team's other returner, a year removed from a second-place finish at state, where he won resoundingly in his first two matches before losing in the championships to Lucas Barry of St. Michael Archangel 4-1.

He capped off his freshman campaign with some incredible success and with the most wins as a freshman in program history



PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

FATIMA COACH Kurt Strope demonstrates a technique at practice on Friday. The Comets are looking at a rebuilding year after losing several wrestlers to graduation but Coach Strope hopes to get kids to state and finish in the top 20 as a team.

See Wrestling
Page 19B



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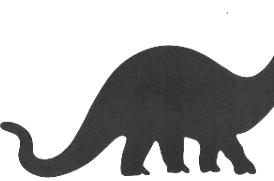
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Wrestling
From Page 18B

with 42. "I was very proud of how Cody performed at the state tournament," said Coach Strope after last year's meet. "It was very special to watch him compete. Cody was the first wrestler for us to compete in each round and he got us going in the right direction, getting the seniors that followed him pumped up and ready to perform the best they could. I know he wanted a state title but it will be fun to watch him put in the time and chase after it next year, and in the years to come."

During the offseason in preparation for the 2021-22 campaign, Strope has been committed to improving.

"I don't think he's been off the mat since last season," said Coach Strope. "He wants to get back and win a championship and I'm confident he can achieve that goal."

Sophomores Tyler Kloepel, Malaki Nevins, Landon Post, and Chase Willis are new to the mat. "They're working hard to gain the techniques necessary for success," said Coach Strope. "Some have experience but it's been a bit since they've wrestled, and others have no experience and are playing catchup."

Freshmen Alek Tune, Trevor Herzing, and Landon Bassett have some experience, with all three having competed in the Fatima Kids Wrestling Club, and Tune and Herzing battling at the junior high level last year.

"All three come in with pretty good experience and I'm eager to see how well they'll do at the high school level," said Coach Strope.

On the whole, Strope said this year's team will look a little different. "We're used to being a team with more wrestlers in the lower weights but this year we'll have the upper weights," he said. "It will be a different look for me and Les (Rosenborough) in duals."

In a rebuilding year, Strope said his goal is for the team to finish in the top 10-20 in the state. "Our goals are simpler," he said. "We want to be competitive in duals and tournaments and do our best to get some kids out of districts. It's hard to replace the guys we lost to graduation."

On the girls' side, senior Morgan Eggleston (127) and sophomore Skyla Schroeder (137) each went 1-2 in last year's sectional tournament, losing their first match then winning their second before losing their third match and being eliminated from the tournament.

"Both girls did things that they have not done in the past and won a tremendous amount of matches," said Coach Strope after the sectional. "I know both of them wanted to get to state this year; it just didn't happen. I think if they put in the time in the off-season though and improve just as much as they did this season, both of them should be setting their sights on placing at state next year. I know that is the goal/standard that I am going to hold them to

going forward."

Their berth in sectionals came after both Lady Comets placed in the top four at the district tournament, with Eggleston going 2-1 on the day for third place, and Skyla Schroeder earning fourth after going 2-2.

Fast-forward to this year and both are looking very strong. "They have worked very hard in the offseason with camps and

spending time in the weight room," said Strope. "We hope to get them not only to state but to the podium. That's not an outrageous goal for either of them."

Fatima's junior high program, again coached by Pete Felotico, includes seven wrestlers, with one from Holy Family as part of the cooperative agreement board members approved.

"There's a lot of raw talent," said

Coach Strope. "We're trying to fine-tune it for several of them. For a few, it's a matter of building confidence before they hit high school."

Team members include eighth-graders Nolan Laux, Connor Willis, Jesse Schroeder, and Tucker Tune, and seventh-graders Thomas Kremer, Ryder Herzing, and Mason Bock.

Fatima HS Boys Wrestling Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Levels	Time
11/30	Higginsville/Odessa/Boonville Quad (higginsville, MO)	Away	V	5:00 pm
» 11/30	» Boonville	Home	V	
» 11/30	» Lafayette County	Home	V	
» 11/30	» Odessa	Home	V	
12/4	Jefferson City Tournament (Jefferson City, MO)	Neutral	JV	
12/7	Capital City Quad with Hallsville and Rock Bridge (Jefferson City, MO)	Away	V	5:30 pm
» 12/7	» Capital City High	Home	V	
» 12/7	» Hallsville	Home	V	
» 12/7	» Rock Bridge	Home	V	
12/11	Union Boys Wrestling Tournament (Union, MO)	Away	V	
12/14	Blair Oaks / Knob Noster / Palmyra (Jefferson City, MO)	Away	V	5:00 pm
» 12/14	» Blair Oaks	Home	V	
» 12/14	» Knob Noster	Home	V	
» 12/14	» Palmyra	Home	V	
12/15	Blair Oaks JV (Wardsville, MO)	Away	JV	
12/17-18	Battle on the Katy Trail @ Sedalia (Lathrop, MO)	Neutral	V	
12/29	Hallsville Holiday Wrestling Tournament (Hallsville, MO)	Neutral	V	
1/5	Fatima Quad (Westphalia, MO)	Home	V	5:30 pm
» 1/5	» California	Home	V	
» 1/5	» St. James	Home	V	
» 1/5	» Tipton	Home	V	
1/11	Centralia, North Callaway	Away	V	
» 1/11	» Centralia	Home	V	
» 1/11	» North Callaway HS	Home	V	
1/15	Owensville Tournament (Owensville, MO)	Away	V	
1/18	Fr. Tolton / Macon / Tipton	Away	V	6:00 pm
1/22	Gary Haag Invitational (Brookfield, MO)	Neutral	V	
1/25	Fulton / Moberly	Away	V	5:30 pm
» 1/25	» Fulton	Home	V	
» 1/25	» Moberly	Home	V	
1/29	Grandview Tournament (Grandview, MO)	Away	V	
2/3	South Callaway Tri (Mokane, MO)	Neutral	V	

**Fatima JH boys
wrestling
schedule in UD
Sports Section**

Fatima Girls
From Page 15B

she'll be the measuring stick for us. The team will go as she goes, and will be the difference between us being good and great."

Caleigh Huot, a 5-7 guard, is one of the best athletes on the team. "She's fast and runs for days," said Baker. "She's coming into her own and never stops working. This is her first year on varsity so we'll be working to make her comfortable at this level of play. She'll give us nice depth off the bench."

Kaitlyn Plassmeyer (5-2) is a tough guard and always seems to be in the right place at the right time. "It's amazing to see how she just gets where she needs to be," said Baker. "I call her the little rattlesnake. She shoots well and is part of the core group that has played together."

KP will battle for the point guard position as the season unfolds.

Junior forward Lucy Crede (5-9) will be a big player off the bench. "She's pure energy," said Baker. "She has tons of fire and offers instant offense when she goes into the game. Lucy is always hunting for shots and she's a darn good shooter. She may start a few games as we move along but I'm glad to have her coming off the bench."

Fatima's final junior is Lydia Brunnert, a 5-6 forward. "She's one of the best

rebounders I've had in the program," Baker said. "She has a natural nose for the ball and seems to come up with it most of the time. We'll need her to be more aggressive offensively but her defense is solid. She reads the floor well and will give us a lot of steals."

Rounding out the varsity squad is freshman 5-5 guard Vivian Bax. "She's a very talented kid and a natural point guard," said Baker. "I'm excited to have her in the program. She has a quick release and having her as a point guard in the mix will allow some of our players who have moved to that position to settle back into their normal roles."

Bax will vie for a starting role.

Baker said that with this mix of players, he's expecting the season to be interesting. "There will be a learning curve, especially with our tough schedule," he added. "We're

playing some bigger schools like Carl Junction and Boonville at their place. I want to give the girls a variety of experiences and locations so they get to see some of everything. I think that will help our young team a lot come district time."

Fatima's JV team has been working hard in practice to prepare not only for the upcoming season but for the transition to the varsity level.

"All of these players are freshmen and new to high school basketball," said Coach John Fick. "They're still learning the differences and how to play at the faster speed at this level but they're working very hard in practice."

Team members are forwards Payton Wieberg and Kristen Robertson, and guards Madelyn Backes, Maggie Dickneite, Mia Kliethermes, Carly MacLellan, Lilly Warren, and Jaiden Wieberg.

Senior Spotlight Questions

- 1) What are you looking forward to most as a senior this year?
- 2) What is your personal goal this season?
- 3) What is your goal for the team?
- 4) Who is your role model and why?
- 5) What does sportsmanship mean to you?
- 6) What are your plans after graduation?



Madison Borgmeyer (Dance)

- 1) Getting closer with my friends throughout the year and earning my diploma.
- 2) To have a great season and a positive outlook for each game.
- 3) To grow a team bond with all the amazing girls on the team and try our hardest at each game.
- 4) My mom, because she has always taught me to be kind to everyone, even when not everyone is kind to you. She is very positive, even during the hardest situations.
- 5) Treating people with respect during a game.
- 6) I plan to attend Lincoln University to get my BSN and become a labor and delivery nurse



Ella Winkelman (Dance)

- 1) I look forward to seeing all the new team members grow and have fun.
- 2) To be a good captain and be a good example to my teammates.
- 3) To have fun and do our best.
- 4) My mom, because of how hard she works.
- 5) It means supporting and encouraging everyone to do their best and working together to meet our goals.
- 6) I plan to attend college to become an Audiologist.

Fatima Girls Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Levels	Time
11/22	Osage (Osage Beach, MO)	Away	V, JV	6:00 PM
11/29-12/4	Comet Classic (Westphalia, MO)	Home	V	
12/6	Eldon	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
12/11-18	St. James Girls JV Tournament (St James, MO)	Neutral	JV	
12/14	New Bloomfield	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
12/20	Blair Oaks	Home	JV	6:00 PM
12/21	Blair Oaks	Home	V	6:00 PM
12/28-30	Rolla Holiday Tournament (Rolla, MO)	Away	V	
1/3	California (California, MO)	Away	V, JV	6:00 PM
1/6	Owensville (Owensville, MO)	Away	V, JV	6:00 PM
1/8	Carl Junction	Neutral	V	7:00 PM
1/10-15	South Callaway Varsity Girls Basketball (Mokane, MO)	Neutral	V	
1/20	Helias Catholic	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
1/27	Boonville	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
1/31	St. Elizabeth (St. Elizabeth, MO)	Away	V, JV	6:00 PM
2/3	Eugene	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
2/7	Tuscumbia	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
2/10	South Callaway (Mokane, MO)	Away	V, JV	6:00 PM
2/14	Russellville	Home	V, JV	6:00 PM
2/17	Linn	Home	JV	6:00 PM
2/18	Linn	Home	V	6:00 PM
2/22	Southern Boone (Ashland, MO)	Away	V	6:00 PM

**Jorja Bruce (Wrestling Manager)**

1) I am looking forward to all the fun activities that come with being a senior, and getting to experience the feeling of doing everything one last time.

2) To grow friendships with the new wrestlers and to be able to make it to as many meets as possible.

3) I want the team to try their hardest, never give up, always remember how much they have accomplished, and continue to show great sportsmanship all year.

4) Corey Innis, because he always gives the best attitude to everyone. He takes great pride in what he does, and performs all challenging tasks to the best of his abilities.

5) It means not only to be a team player but to be supportive of everyone but also to be supportive of yourself and give yourself credit.

6) I will be training with the military. After I return, I will attend a four-year college and major in Criminal Justice.

**Saige Verslues
(Wrestling Manager)**

1) To watch everyone improve from last season and all the new wrestlers coming in. I hope to see everyone moving on to state.

2) To attend as many meets as possible.

3) To excel all season and seeing everyone get to state.

4) My mom, because she is supportive of me all the time and I strive to be like her.

5) To be a team player all the time and support everyone.

6) I plan to attend MSU and majoring Nursing.

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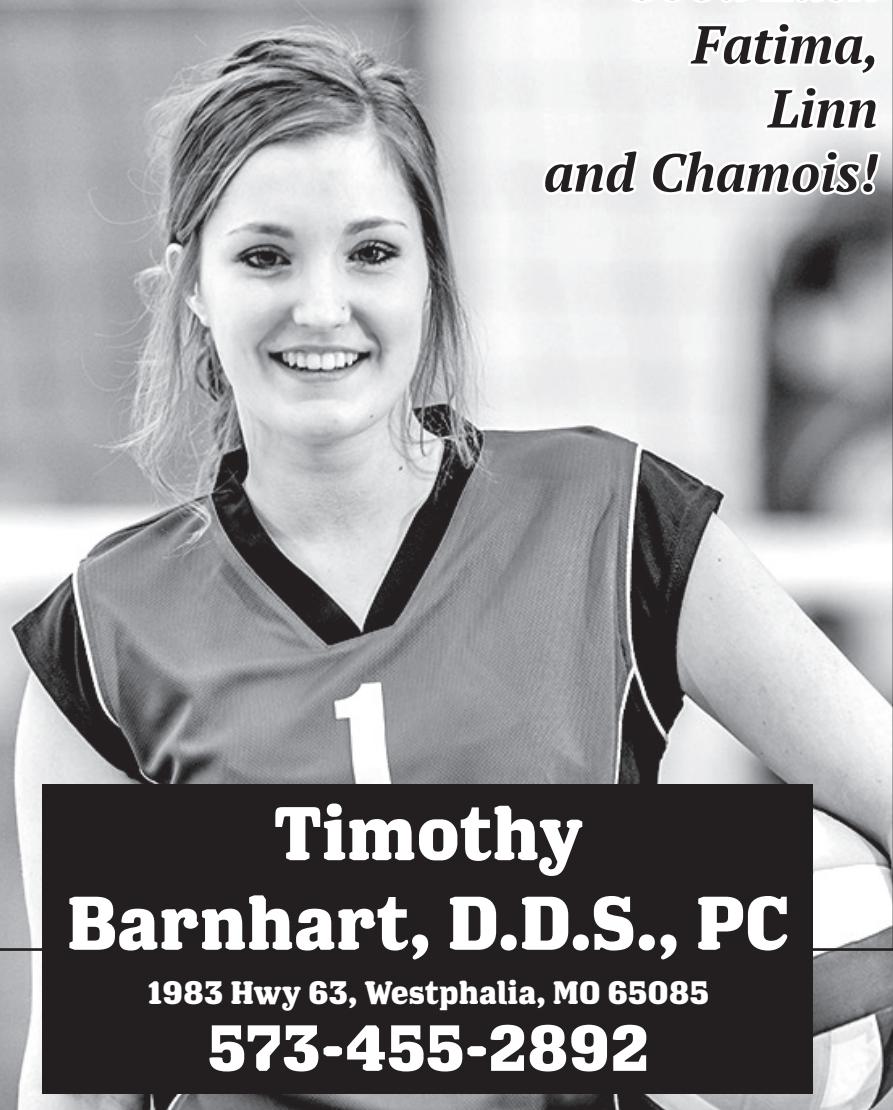
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PHOTOS BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

MATT ROBERTSON attempt to block a shot by Max Stuecken during a recent practice. Above right, Nate Brandt races up the floor as Levi Robinson, left, and Jacob Vanderfeltz follow.

Fatima Boys
From Page 14B

four things well, we will be a handful," he said.

JV Coach Ethan Williams described the boys' JV basketball team as "small but mighty" and said the team has worked hard in practice in preparing for the season.

"We'll play very hard and will go up-tempo as much as possible," said Williams. "Rebounding will be a challenge

because of our size but I'm pleased with our work ethic. It's prototypical of Osage County teams. We're balanced with some decent shooters and I think this will be a fun season. It will definitely be entertaining for fans."

Team members include juniors Kayden Struemph and Alex Reinkemeyer, both 5-11, sophomore Nolan Jaegers (5-10), and freshmen Brody Troesser (5-4), Trevor Schulte (5-5), Sam Struemph (5-9), Jace Eisterhold (5-8), Cody Schwartze (5-9), George Neuner (5-5), and Logan Kliethermes (5-5).

Fatima cheer has new coaches

Fatima cheerleaders this year are being led by new coaches Jamie Pearson and Hunter Anderson.

"I'm super excited about being in this program," said Pearson, who was the conditioning coach for Capital City Cheer for two years. "I wanted to help out and was asked to work with the high school team."

Pearson also coached at Trinity Lutheran, and she is a fitness instructor. "My love is fitness and motivating people to want to work out," she said.

Anderson, who cheered for Fatima while in school, has returned as the assistant coach to work primarily with junior Katlynn Herrbach, sophomores Alyssa Hoeller and Malayna Anderson, and freshmen Mya Sankey during routines, while Pearson will oversee the operation as a whole.

Spirit Week starts Dec. 13 with a finale beginning with an assembly on Dec. 17. A performance will be held at halftime of the homecoming game.

Next year, Pearson hopes, Fatima will compete in contests, which require 6-8 team members. The Lady Comets will also get new uniforms next year, with input on design from this year's squad.

Pearson will work with seventh-graders Tristin Cremer, Audrey Bexten, Draven Cole, Mila Hagedorn, Celia Crawford, Kaylee Medina, and Grace Dudenhoeffer, who have expressed an interest in joining the squad next year.

"If we can get the girls in the junior high to get excited, that's the future of our program," said Pearson.

Good Luck Fatima Comets, Linn Wildcats and Chamois Pirates on your sports seasons!

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Senior Spotlight Questions

- 1) What are you looking forward to most as a senior this year?
- 2) What is your personal goal this season?
- 3) What is your goal for the team?
- 4) Who is your role model and why?
- 5) What does sportsmanship mean to you?
- 6) What are your plans after graduation?

**Morgan Eggleston**

1) I'm looking forward to graduating because I'm excited to go to college.
 2) To qualify for state.
 3) I hope both Skyla and I qualify for state and finish the season well.
 4) Erin Bidlack, family friend and owner of Studio 573 Fitness, because she always has a positive mindset and won't let others' negativity bring her down.
 5) Respecting yourself, your teammates, your coaches, and your competition.
 6) I plan to wrestle at Waldorf University and major in psychology.

**Luke Schroeder**

1) I look forward to graduation so I can move on to college.
 2) To win a state title.
 3) To win at least three duals.
 4) My grandpa because he was the type of man I want to become. He worked hard for what he wanted and stood up for what he believed in.
 5) To be able to wrestle a close match, lose, but still be able to get up and shake the other person's hand.
 6) To attend Black Hawk Community College to major in swine production with an emphasis in crop science.

**MORGAN EGGLESTON** and Skyla Schroeder square off during a recent practice.

PHOTO BY NEAL A. JOHNSON

Fatima HS Girls Wrestling Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
11/30	Boonville Tri	Away	5:00 pm
» 11/30	» Boonville	Home	
» 11/30	» Odessa	Home	
12/7	Hallsville Quad	Away	5:30 pm
» 12/7	» Capital City High	Home	
» 12/7	» Rock Bridge	Home	
12/10	Union Girls Wrestling Tournament (Union, MO)	Away	
12/14	Blair Oaks/Knob Noster/ Palmyra (Jefferson City, MO)	Away	5:30 pm
» 12/14	» Blair Oaks	Home	
» 12/14	» Knob Noster	Home	
» 12/14	» Palmyra	Home	
12/29-30	Wonderwoman Tournament (Battle) (Columbia, MO)	Away	
1/7	Capital City Girls Tournament (Jefferson City, MO)	Neutral	
1/18	Tolton Quad with Macon and Tipton	Away	6:00 pm
» 1/18	» Macon	Home	
» 1/18	» Tipton	Home	
1/21	Brookfield Girls Wrestling Tournament (Brookfield, MO)	Neutral	
1/25	Fulton/Moberly Tri (Fulton, MO)	Away	5:30 pm
» 1/25	» Fulton	Home	
» 1/25	» Moberly	Home	
1/29	Seckman Women's Tournament (Seckman, MO)	Away	
2/3	South Callaway Tri with Owensville	Away	5:30 pm
» 2/3	» Owensville	Home	
» 2/3	» South Callaway	Home	

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