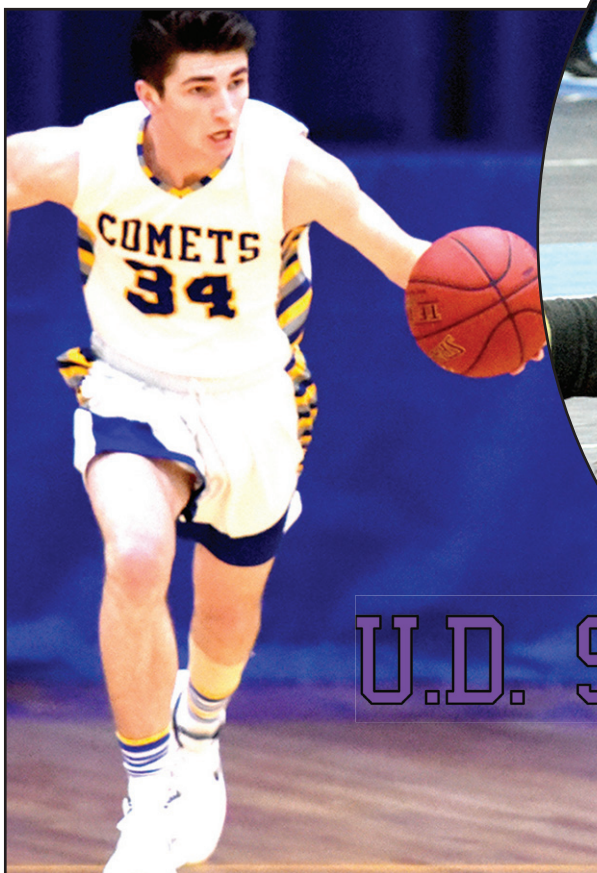
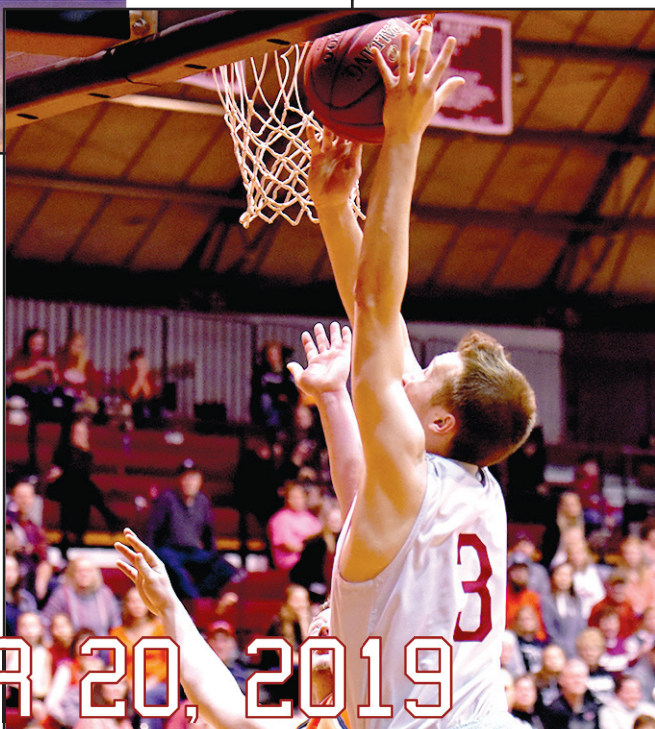


# 2019 WINTER SPORTS GUIDE



## U.D. SPORTS SUPPLEMENT



NOVEMBER 20, 2019

## Perspective: Take time to stop and focus on nothing at all

My how time flies.

Here we are, a little over a week away from Thanksgiving, and it just doesn't seem possible. I know, that's probably the most cliché thing you'll hear me say, or see in print, but it's true.

Here's another one: Sometimes you have to stop and smell the roses.

I admit, with my schedule, it's often difficult to stop for very long. I'm like a giant hummingbird, constantly surprised that the sheer weight of the body doesn't rip the wings off like wrapping paper.

My world consists of moving from one meeting to the next, coordinating my schedule so I can go to a game on the way to or from a meeting, and rarely do I get to sit and just enjoy the moment.

I'm not complaining, mind you; it's been this way since I joined the media in 1997, and I expect it will always be this way.

My point here is only to say that because I'm moving all the time, there have been only a few times since I wrote my column in the fall sports guide that I took a moment to view the world around me, free of expectation that what I was seeing or hearing would find its way into the paper.

One such occasion was a day back in August, when I took a few hours and went to Painted Rock near Meta. I had my poles and some bait, and my plan was to unplug, and just try to find peace in fishing. Unfortunately, I didn't have any luck with that, so grabbed the camera and took scenic photos, which was very relaxing.

For that little bit as the sun went down, I was alone, without cell reception, or the interruption of sirens, and I could just take it in.

The sunlight reflected off the tranquil water, and the small peninsulas that provide a place to fish served as a point of interest, which led to some captivating photographs.

I also shot the sun as it set over the river, from behind a canopy of trees, which was likewise a stunning scene.

As I surveyed my surroundings, I saw a glint from what had to be metal above me in the trees.

It was a hook, with fishing line wrapped around the branches, and a red and white bobber. I could imagine the situation in which a child rears back to cast into the river, only to have the rig caught in the trees, with no other option than to cut the line and leave it behind.

I read something recently that really

made me consider how I view things.

The piece I read noted that when we remember something, we are only accessing the last time we remembered it. That means the more you focus on memories, the stronger they become, according to the author, because we establish a shorter connection to the memory.

What's even more of a brain-teaser is the scenario which played out in my mind.

When I was crouched there shooting the sunset, my mind lazily recalled many such scenes, and yet I wasn't actually remembering the *first* time, only second- or third-hand recollections.

So now, when I think of the bobber in the tree, I'm thinking about the sunsets I remembered, which were themselves mere memories of memories of the last time I thought about them.

This is the kind of stuff that keeps me up at night.

Regardless, the day (to the best of my recollection) was a nice way to unwind, and a poignant reminder to do it more often.

Some of my strongest memories, no matter how they are stored in my brain, surround annual camping trips with my family as a kid in Arizona.

I don't talk about my home state much, primarily because I've been in Missouri since 1990, which is a long time. I also enjoy living here, especially in Osage County, and this is my home.

But as a child, I enjoyed the two-week vacation in the heat of the Arizona summer, which can be as brutal as you've been led to believe.

What was great about camping is that it was two hours north of the Phoenix area, which meant we would leave 120-degree heat and climb into the mountains, where the temperature would drop significantly by the time we reached Tonto Creek or Christopher Creek reservations. We stayed at both places at various times, and they are near one another, north of Payson.

My mom drove a Volkswagen bus (van), which is what I learned to drive, and the vehicle I used to obtain my license.

We'd pack that sucker full, with seven kids and groceries and camping gear, and yes, it was cramped and smelled like a cross between a locker room and a portapotty by the end of the two-hour drive.

The first breath of air upon arrival was simply the best.

We roughed it out for two weeks, meaning we lived in tents. Camping was a connection to nature, and I grew up in a time without cell phones or laptops, so we had to entertain ourselves.

Now, camping for many people, including Kari, means cabins or resort, with access to a lake. I must admit there are elements to modern camping I prefer to the old days.

For one thing, I'm not as young or skinny, which means sleeping on the ground is not really something that appeals to me. I have trouble enough sleeping on a bed; the few times I've tried to rough it out in a sleeping bag against Mother Earth, I was reminded just how much it hurts.

Back then, however, it was just awesome to be able to get away from the grind, even for a little while.

My body would reset; I would get sleepy when the sun went down, and wake up with the sun.

I would like to do more of that, to be honest. If I could just find the time.

Another thing I will admit is better is not having to carry 5-gallon water jugs half a mile back to camp.

This year, we moved from the heat of summer into the heat of fall, and then some nice days before the snow hit, and through it all, teams from around the county gave it their best.

I'm very proud of the accomplishments made by these athletes, from district titles to state championships.

Now, we move into the winter season, and I am encouraged by what I've seen.

All of our coaches have returned, which is always good for the student athletes, who thrive on consistency at the helm.

As the season gets under way, I just want to wish everyone good luck, and say that I hope you have a healthy, successful season.

My plan is to take some time with my family, and embrace what peace I can find, and I hope you have the same opportunity.

As Thanksgiving nears, I am again reminded of all for which I'm grateful, from my family to friends, and the fact I'm alive.

Be safe in your travels, if you are planning a trip, and try to remember to relax, put on the old stretch pants, eat your fill of turkey, and nod off during the game.

*See you at the game. NAJ*

## Best of Luck for a Great Season

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## Kuschel wants a district championship this season

Chamois in recent years has had a successful post-season, but ended last season in a 42-40 heartbreaker to St. James in the district championship, and Coach Klayton Kuschel wants a deeper run this year.

"We'll have a better season," he said. "I'm confident in that. We have more experience, and this is my second year as head coach, which means the guys understand me a little more, and I understand them. We have a better relationship and they understand the system and what we want to accomplish. Our returners were big offensive threats last year, and I expect that to be the case again. All around, we should be a team that can win our district."

Having said that, Kuschel understands that every game matters, and the goal is to approach each one independently. "We have to make good decisions every night," he said. "The guys understand that we have to show up ready to play every game, and make the most of our opportunities."

Traditionally, Chamois has been a strong defensive team, and last year held teams in the low 50s, but averaging only 40 points a game won't cut it.

"It doesn't matter how well your defense plays if you don't score enough points, so we're really focused on adding 10 to 12 points a game," said Kuschel. "The guys played really well over the summer. I wasn't sure what to expect, but they really stepped it up, and showed that they've come a long way since last season."

Chamois has four seniors on the roster.

Devin Warren, a 6-3 guard, is the most offensive-minded player on the team. "His leadership is second to none, and he's doing very well in practice so far," said Kuschel. "He was injured over the summer but it hasn't slowed him down. I expect him to be a big part of our offense."

Warren led with 15 points in the district title game last year, and finished with second-team All-District honors. He averaged 12.8 points and 2.2 rebounds per game over the season.

Richard Schaperclaus (6-0 point guard) has a lot of experience at the varsity level and his summer effort was outstanding, Kuschel said. "He's taken great strides to get to this point, and he will only get better," the coach added. "He's a good leader and hard worker, and he's scrappy. He's constantly getting after it, and that energy will be important."

Brandon Dodson, a 6-1 guard, is another scrappy player who likes to mix it up. "He drives well, and isn't afraid to get in there and fight for the ball," said Kuschel. "He's come a long way with his shot, and I like the way he hustles on every play."

Rounding out the seniors is Dawson Haslag, a 6-0 guard. "He's a role player, doing the dirty work that doesn't always get the credit he deserves," said Kuschel. "His scoring and rebounding will be big for us this year, and he's got some speed."

Nathan Nolte (6-5 post) will create some issues for opponents. "His length in the post and his ability to shoot the three make him a difficult match-up for anyone," said Kuschel. "He put on some size and

filled out, which makes him solid inside, but he's also a very offensive-minded player so he's always looking for ways to put the ball in the hole. He's a leader by example, and pretty much lives in the gym. He's always here shooting, and gets whoever else he can to join him."

Nolte last year averaged 10.1 points and 4.3 rebounds per game.

Eli Deppe, another junior, is a beast at 6-4 and will be the team's primary post player. "He's a bruiser, that's for sure," said Kuschel. "He's consistently beating around the inside, looking for a rebound. Eli has a lot more confidence this year, and he's starting to develop more of an offensive mentality. That's a piece we've been missing so it's nice to have that coming in."

Sophomore Mason Lamb (5-10 guard) will split time between varsity and JV. "He's a decent shooter, and just finds a way to be in the right place at the right time a lot," said Kuschel. "Mason has a great mind for the game and works well off the ball."

Playing primarily JV but with time at the varsity in spots will be sophomores Caine Schaben (5-9 guard), Ethan Halbert (5-5 guard), and freshmen Zain Slusser (6-2 post), Tyler Brandt (6-0 point guard), Shannon Cowans (6-0 guard) and Waylon Carter (6-3 post).

Schaben is playing his first year at the high school level. "He's a very scrappy



**NATE NOLTING** averaged 10.1 points per game last year.

See Chamois  
Page 5B



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## Leach confident in team's ability to notch more wins

Chamois has a nice mix of size and speed, and Lady Pirates coach John Leach said the key to a good season will be consistent play from everyone.

"We need to do a better job in the post stopping opponents, especially on rebounding, when we've given up extra points," said Leach. "We also need to be cleaner on setup, execute our plays, and finish them or we're giving up too much on offense. It's a balance, but if we can do these things consistently, we'll pick up a few more wins and have a better season overall."

Leach said that winning more games than last year, when the Lady Pirates finished 9-15, is an important goal for the team. "We let too many close games get away from us," he said. "We need to be winning those games. We play a very tough schedule, but there are teams we can beat, and we are going to do everything we can to do it. There are games no one expects us to win, and our goal is to be competitive, and maybe come away with some upsets. We are going to play as well as we are capable of playing, and leave it all on the court."

Senior Alexis Slusser, a 5-7 forward, has stepped into a leadership role this year. "She's been a huge part of the program since seventh grade, and has played various roles," said Leach. "She should be very effective on both ends of the floor, and her positive and encouraging attitude are also important."

Senior Claire Brandt (5-7) did not play last year but returns to battle in the post. "I'm hopeful and excited about what she

can do in the middle," said Leach. "Her post play is good, and she can step out and shoot the three. Right now she's getting back into basketball shape, and I think she'll factor heavily in our run at districts."

The final senior is 5-5 guard Chloe Holloway. "She's also working hard to get into basketball shape," said Leach. "She hasn't played since eighth grade, so she's got some catchup to do, but she's turning into a good shooter who could provide us eight to 10 points a game. She hustles on every play, and is a wonderful addition to the team."

Junior Katie Keilholz, a 5-6 guard, led the team last year with 20 points a game while grabbing nearly six rebounds per contest, which led to first-team All-District and All-Conference honors.

"She's got a tremendous work ethic, and is a great athlete," said Leach. "She's recovered from her mishap at state cross country, and I think she will wow people on the court. I feel she can increase her scoring average, even though other teams are going to double-team her a lot. They did that last year and she still led the conference in scoring, which just shows how athletic she is. I am really excited to see how well she does."

Keilholz set a school season record for made three-pointers with 87, and hit 78% from the stripe.

Fellow junior MaKenna Wuelling, an explosive 5-5 point guard, has held that role the last two years, and will continue leading the offense this winter. "She picked up her scoring last year, and we had to have

it," said Leach, noting that Wuelling posted 11.67 and grabbed 6.7 rebounds a game in 2018, which led to first-team All-District and second-team All-Conference nods. "She will emerge as a top scorer, and take some pressure off Katie. MaKenna wants to win, and she's a tenacious player."

Junior guard, 5-11 Veronica Slack, has shown steady improvement. "She's working hard on improving her fitness to run the floor better, and she's a great addition to this team," said Leach. "She hung in there last year and did what we asked of her, and I think this year her size will help us defend in the post."

Chamois has two sophomores in 5-6 guard Ariel Owens and 5-10 post player Abby Keilholz.

"Ariel got some experience last year as freshman and learned a lot from the upper classmen," said Leach. "I'm optimistic about her ability to score, and her defense is pretty solid. She's more aggressive as a guard and is coming along very well."

Keilholz, meanwhile, played AAU basketball all summer and has made great strides in her game. "She'll be a big part of our post play," said Leach. "We'll need her to battle for rebounds and add scoring on putback shots."

Rounding out the squad is 5-5 freshman guard Alex McKague. "She played summer ball with us, and has come a long way," said Leach. "She's starting to understand



**ALEXIS SLUSSER** returns and has stepped into more of a leadership role for the Lady Pirates.

See **Lady Pirates**  
Page 5B

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## Chamois Boys Hoops

| DATE               | OPPONENT                                | LEVEL     | HOME/AWAY | TIME(S)  |
|--------------------|---|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 11/19/19--11/19/19 | Linn Jamboree                           | VG/VB     | Away      | 5:00 pm  |
| 11/26/19           | Vienna High School                      | JVB/VG/VB | Home      | 5:00 pm  |
| 12/02/19--12/07/19 | Tipton Invitational                     | VG/VB     | Away      | TBA      |
| 12/10/19           | Wellsville-Middletown R-I High School   | VG/VB     | Away      | 6:00 pm  |
| 12/14/19           | Belle High School                       | JVB/VG/VB | Away      | 12:00 pm |
| 12/19/19           | New Bloomfield R-III High School (Conf) | VG/VB     | Home      | 6:00 pm  |
| 01/02/20           | Calvary Lutheran High School            | JVB/VG/VB | Away      | 4:00 pm  |
| 01/04/20           | South Callaway R-II High School (Conf)  | JVB/VG/VB | Home      | 3:00 pm  |
| 01/09/20           | Missouri School For The Deaf            | VG/VB     | Home      | 6:00 pm  |
| 01/10/20           | Hermann High School                     | JVB/VG/VB | Away      | 5:00 pm  |
| 01/14/20           | Eugene High School (Conf)               | JVB/VG/VB | Home      | 5:00 pm  |
| 01/17/20           | Tuscumbia High School (Conf)            | VG/VB     | Home      | 6:00 pm  |
| 01/20/20--01/25/20 | Belle Tournament                        | VB        | Away      | TBA      |
| 01/27/20           | Saint Elizabeth R-IV High School (Conf) | JVB/VG/VB | Home      | 5:00 pm  |
| 01/31/20           | Capital City High School                | JVB/VB    | Away      | 6:00 pm  |
| 02/04/20           | New Haven High School                   | JVB/VG/VB | Away      | 5:00 pm  |
| 02/07/20           | Prairie Home R-5 School                 | VG/VB     | Away      | 6:00 pm  |
| 02/11/20           | Jamestown C-1 High School               | VG/VB     | Away      | 6:00 pm  |
| 02/14/20           | Linn R-II High School (Conf)            | JVB/VG/VB | Away      | 5:00 pm  |
| 02/18/20           | Fatima High School (Conf)               | JVB/VG/VB | Home      | 5:00 pm  |
| 02/21/20           | Russellville High School (Conf)         | JV/V      | Away      | 6:00 pm  |
| 02/22/20--02/29/20 | Districts                               | VG/VB     | TBA       | TBA      |

## Chamois Basketball Class 1 District 9

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\* Pilot Grove \* St. Elizabeth \* Tuscumbia

\*\* Districts TBA \*\*

## Chamois Girls Hoops

| DATE               | OPPONENT                                | LEVEL     | HOME/AWAY | TIME(S)  |
|--------------------|---|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 11/19/19--11/19/19 | Jamboree/Linn                           | VG/VB     | Away      | 5:00 pm  |
| 11/26/19           | Vienna High School                      | JVB/VG/VB | Home      | 5:00 pm  |
| 12/02/19--12/07/19 | Tipton Invitational                     | VG/VB     | Away      | TBA      |
| 12/10/19           | Wellsville-Middletown R-I High School   | VG/VB     | Away      | 6:00 pm  |
| 12/14/19           | Belle High School                       | JVB/VG/VB | Away      | 12:00 pm |
| 12/19/19           | New Bloomfield R-III High School (Conf) | VG/VB     | Home      | 6:00 pm  |
| 01/02/20           | Calvary Lutheran High School            | JVB/VG/VB | Away      | 4:00 pm  |
| 01/04/20           | South Callaway R-II High School (Conf)  | JVB/VG/VB | Home      | 3:00 pm  |
| 01/09/20           | Missouri School For The Deaf            | VG/VB     | Home      | 6:00 pm  |
| 01/10/20           | Hermann High School                     | JVB/VG/VB | Away      | 5:00 pm  |
| 01/14/20           | Eugene High School (Conf)               | JVB/VG/VB | Home      | 5:00 pm  |
| 01/17/20           | Tuscumbia High School (Conf)            | VG/VB     | Home      | 6:00 pm  |
| 01/21/20           | Capital City High School                | VG        | Away      | 6:00 pm  |
| 01/23/20           | Russellville High School (Conf)         | VG        | Away      | 6:00 pm  |
| 01/27/20           | Saint Elizabeth R-IV High School (Conf) | JVB/VG/VB | Home      | 5:00 pm  |
| 02/04/20           | New Haven High School                   | JVB/VG/VB | Away      | 5:00 pm  |
| 02/07/20           | Prairie Home R-5 School                 | VG/VB     | Away      | 6:00 pm  |
| 02/11/20           | Jamestown C-1 High School               | VG/VB     | Away      | 6:00 pm  |
| 02/14/20           | Linn R-II High School (Conf)            | JVB/VG/VB | Away      | 5:00 pm  |
| 02/18/20           | Fatima High School (Conf)               | JVB/VG/VB | Home      | 5:00 pm  |
| 02/22/20--03/28/20 | District                                | VG/VB     | TBA       | TBA      |

### Chamois from Page 3B

player and rarely gets out-worked," said Kuschel. "He will gain a lot of experience this year."

Halbert is much improved since last year. "His shot is better, and he's getting a grasp of the game," said Kuschel. "His court awareness is better too."

Slusser is a solid outside shooter but he has good size, which makes him important inside. "Zain is pretty offensive-minded for a player his size," said Kuschel. "He's not afraid to let it fly."

Brandt is a very good ball-handler and skilled player. "All around, he is just a solid player," said Kuschel. "As he gains confidence, he'll be a force."

Cowans is one of the most athletic players on the team, and just finished cross

country, during which he qualified the state meet. "Shannon is quick and can jump," said Kuschel. "He's still gaining experience but he's making good strides."

Carter is only in his second year of organized basketball, but Kuschel said he's learning fast. "He's coming around, and his inexperience will be a factor, but he's a good rebounder, and it's nice to have a big kid in the middle," Kuschel added.

The Pirates will play in the Tipton and Belle tournaments this year, and Kuschel said he's looking forward to them.

"We would like to win both of them," he said. "With smaller schools at these tournaments, we should be very competitive. Our schedule is pretty tough but I'm hoping it will pay off when we get to districts. We want to bring back that winning tradition."

Kuschel is joined once again by assistant coaches Jacob Trachsel and Ethan Hagenhoff.

## Good Luck Pirates! NAJ

### Lady Pirates From Page 4B

the plays and what we need, and she has the ability to score. Her defense is improving as well."

Chamois will play in the Tipton tournament, starting as the fourth seed.

"We're pretty excited to get the season

started," said Leach. "I have a lot of confidence in this team, and believe the girls can do whatever they set their mind to. Like I said, we're going to give it everything we have in every game."

Leach added he hopes to enter the district tournament in the upper part of the seeding, with an eye toward making a run for the championship.

## Chamois Senior Spotlight on Page 6B

# GOOD LUCK TEAMS!



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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?



**Alexis Slusser**

- 1) Finishing the basketball season strong with a lot of wins. I'm also looking forward to senior trip because it's going to be fun.
- 2) To be better at driving in and making lay-ups, and to be a better three-point shooter.
- 3) To have a strong defense, and have everyone shoot dead, and get a lot of rebounds.
- 4) Nathan Feverstein, because he never gave up until he reached his goals, and overcame obstacles along the way.
- 5) It means helping up others who have fallen, and always giving it your all even when you're losing. It also means showing respect and having a good attitude toward everybody.
- 6) I plan to attend college and major in criminology, and I may run cross country.



**Claire Brandt**

- 1) I am looking forward to spending time with my classmates and making memories with them.
- 2) To be a strong post player and to never give up no matter what happens.
- 3) To have fun, win a lot of games, and go far in districts.
- 4) My mom, because she is always there for me and supports every decision I make.
- 5) Having a positive attitude toward others and working as a team to reach your goals.
- 6) I plan to study architecture at Drury University, and travel abroad.



**Chloe Holloway**

- 1) Having a leadership role and setting an example; I'd like to show that anyone can do anything.
- 2) To give my best to the team and enjoy my last season.
- 3) To bond and grow together. I want us all to strive to be our best and build each other up.
- 4) My parents, because they are strong for extremely different reasons. I've learned different lessons and self-discipline from both of them.
- 5) Respect for yourself, your team and your opponents.
- 6) I plan to leave for Missouri National Guard basic training June 30, and will start college in the spring of 2020 after I finish my training.



**Brandon Dodson**

- 1) Graduating and going into the military. I've wanted to serve my country since I was a little boy.
- 2) Average about 15 points a game.
- 3) Help the team make it back to the Final Four.
- 4) Tim Tebow, because he is a great speaker and he sounds like me as a kid.
- 5) Having a good attitude, helping someone out on the court who needs it, cheering people on, saying "Good game," and complimenting people.
- 6) I plan to join the military, and then go to college and become a conservation officer.



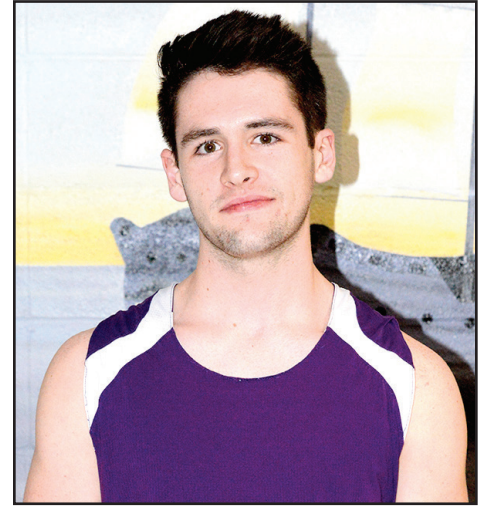
**Dawson Haslag**

- 1) To work better as a team in basketball and to graduate.
- 2) To be the best defensive player on the basketball team.
- 3) To win districts.
- 4) Staff Sergeant Bugarin, because he is proud of who he is, and he is an amazing leader.
- 5) To get along with everyone, even if they're on the opposing team.
- 6) To join the United States Marine Corps and make a career of it.



**Richard Schaperclaus**

- 1) Graduation, joining the national guard, and going to college.
- 2) To help out the team the best I can.
- 3) To help the team win districts.
- 4) My dad, because he works hard and would do anything for his family.
- 5) Being considerate to others, playing as a team, and being there for each other no matter what.
- 6) I plan to join the military, and then go to college to become a personal trainer.



**Devin Warren**

- 1) To suiting up for one last year, and to being the best player I can be for my school and community.
- 2) To show the younger players the right way to being a leader in hopes that one day they will do the same.
- 3) To win one more district championship for my team and school.
- 4) LeBron James, even though he is not my favorite player. The way he gives back to his community and the way he treats people off the court makes him an amazing person. I hope to follow in his footsteps.
- 5) Sportsmanship comes first over everything else to me. At the end of the day, it's just a game. Instead of trash talking, I enjoy making friendships that last off the court.
- 6) I plan to attend Missouri State University to become a physical therapist.



**Chris Kmiec, LINN WILDCATS**

- 1) Graduation and making three-pointers.
- 2) Winning all of our games.
- 3) Beating all other teams
- 4) My coach because he's a good coach.
- 5) Cheering for all our teams.
- 6) I plan to join the work force.

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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?



**Lexie Heidbrink**

- 1) To have a fun and successful year.
- 2) To continue to improve.
- 3) To have fun no matter what.
- 4) My parents, because they always support me.
- 5) Treating others how I want to be treated, and always having a positive attitude.
- 6) I plan to attend State Tech to pursue a degree in business.



**Kennedy Frank**

- 1) I'm looking forward to graduation.
- 2) To work really hard.
- 3) To work together and play as a team.
- 4) My parents, because they have worked so hard to get they are today.
- 5) It means helping each other out, giving a hand, and cheering each other on.
- 6) I plan to attend Mizzou to earn a degree in animal science.



**Alexis Wolfe**

- 1) I look forward to a great season with our strong team.
- 2) Making smart decisions in the game, and having great defense.
- 3) To be a strong player.
- 4) My parents, because they always have a positive outlook on everything and never give up.
- 5) It means cheering and supporting your teammates through everything, and having respect for your teammates, opponents and officials.
- 6) I plan to attend Quincy University in Illinois, where I plan to earn a BSN in nursing while continuing to play basketball on a full-ride scholarship.



**Nicole Deeken**

- 1) Making memories one last time with my teammates.
- 2) To try my hardest by playing every game like it's my last.
- 3) To respect each other and play together as a team.
- 4) My grandma Deeken because she inspires me to be a better person, and always give back in any way I can.
- 5) Valuing each player, keeping a good attitude no matter how hard it is, and congratulating others on their success.
- 6) I plan to attend the University of Missouri to study agribusiness management.



**CLAIRE BAKER** will be a spark for the Lady Cats offense this year.



**Rachel Keilholz**

- 1) Just playing on the team, and being the best leader I can be.
- 2) To work hard and always give my best.
- 3) To play like a team and have fun.
- 4) My parents, because they encourage me to always do my best.
- 5) It means playing fairly and being respectful, on and off the court.
- 6) I plan to attend Mizzou to earn a degree in animal science.



**Sydney Strope**

- 1) Graduation so I can start my future.
- 2) To have fun and improve every chance that I can.
- 3) To make this year the best it can be.
- 4) My dad, Scott Strope, because he gives me great advice, and I look up to him. He teaches me how to be the best I can be.
- 5) Being kind and considerate to others on and off the court.
- 6) I plan to attend State Tech to pursue a degree as a dental assistant.

### Lady Cats From Page 8B

squad, including 5-4 point guard Lindsey Brandt, 5-7 guard/forward Claire Baker, 5-7 guard Chloe Rhoden and 5-7 guard Jessica Keilholz.

Brandt was injured last year and did not play in the district game against California, but she's coming off a successful softball season and looks good thus far in practice. "She's a hard-nosed defender and our best ball-handler," said Moore. "She's a good shooter too, and we'll need her to take shots when the opportunity presents itself. I think she'll gain confidence as she takes more shots."

Baker is one of the most athletic players on the team. "She's very athletic and has a good head for basketball," said Moore. "Claire is the best communicator on the team, and she gets after it. She'll do anything we need of her to win a game."

Rhoden, who led the Lady Wildcats in their district loss to California with 10 points, has an opportunity to be a big part

of the offense. "She has a great feel for the game, and a court awareness that gives her an edge," said Moore. "Defensively, she has good instincts and with her hard work and good attitude, I think she'll do very well this year."

J. Keilholz, meanwhile, is fearless. "She's quick and she's a good shooter," said Moore. "She's not afraid to take the shot, and with her athletic abilities and ball-handling skills, Jessica will be a factor in our transition game."

Overall, Moore is confident in the team's ability to be competitive.

"We haven't really discussed specific goals, but I've challenged the girls to focus on things they can improve, and then to consistently do those things well," said Moore. "That could be scoring or rebounding or defense, whatever. We want to figure out our identity, something we're known for, so that teams playing us will have to respect what we do."

Linn plays a tough schedule, but Moore said that will help. "We need that," she added. "We're going to be competitive in every game as we prepare for districts."



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**Linn Boys Senior Spotlight Next Page  
Linn schedules in the UD Sports Section**

## Lady Cats return to hardwood with lots of experience

The Lady Wildcats are senior-laden this year, and Coach Brandi Moore is looking forward to the season as a result.

"All of my returners have varsity experience, and we're building on what we did last year," she said as Linn finished 7-18 last season. "We are planning to play an up-tempo offense, and defensively, we will create a lot of ball pressure, and score points off turnovers in transition. We really need to do more in that part of the game, along with second-chance points we can score after rebounds. That's what we're focused on, and the girls have been working hard in practice toward those goals."

Several players were involved with either the volleyball program, which played for a district title for the first time in school history and finishes second, or the softball program, which won its district and competed in the sectional round.

"The girls have brought a lot of energy into practice after having successful fall seasons," said Moore. "That has made for

some quality practices that hopefully will translate into a successful start to the season. I'm seeing a lot of good things."

Six seniors return to lead the squad, led by 5-10 guard/forward Lexie Heidbrink, who last year earned All-District honors after scoring 6.7 points and grabbing 4.6 rebounds per game.

"Lexie is versatile on both ends of the floor and will fill a lot of roles for us," said Moore. "We're looking for her to be an even bigger part of our offense, and she can score inside or out. I'm impressed with her strength as she's able to drive and go up even in traffic. We'll need her to score more this year for us to be successful."

Alexis Wolfe, a 6-2 post player, will also be a key part of the team's attack. "She brings good size to the middle of the paint, and has the ability to affect shooters and the shots themselves," said Moore. "We'll need her to be strong and continue to be a good rebounder, and give us second-chance points. She'll be a key part of the team."

Rachel Keilholz (5-4 guard) is quick and works as hard as anyone. "She's always looking to improve herself, no matter what that is," said Moore. "She's got some speed, which will help, and she's a good defender. Rachel will do all she can to help the team."

Another versatile player is senior 5-6 guard/forward Nicole Deeken. "She has a high basketball IQ and does a lot of things well," said Moore. "She's a great rebounder and defender, and can play anywhere we need her to step in, which makes her a good asset to the team."

Sydney Strobe (5-4 guard) also returns.

"She has a good attitude and hustles after every ball," said Moore. "She's got a decent shot, and her work ethic is solid."

Rounding out the seniors is 5-6 forward Kennedy Frank, who like Wolfe, will provide a strong physical presence. "She's not afraid to bang around in there with the other girls," said Moore. "She's a good rebounder and defender, and will give us a nice option for plugging the lane."

Four juniors will round out the varsity

**See Lady Cats  
Page 9B**

### Linn JV, frosh continue developing

Linn will play a JV and frosh schedule this year, with players moving between the two as they learn the system on their way to a varsity position.

"The girls have been really responsive in practice so far," said Coach Brandi Moore, who is working with Asst. Coach Wayne Wilson with a good group of sophomores and freshmen. "I'm excited about these players. They are working hard and have a lot of energy."

Sophomores are Hannah Hall (5-2 guard), Macci Blauvelt (5-4 guard), Emma Schaffer (5-7 guard/forward), Emma Fennell (5-0 guard), Ellie Monnette (5-2 guard), Elizabeth Heckman (5-7 forward) and Karlee Cox (5-6 forward), and freshmen are 5-6 guard/forward Autumn Baker, 5-7 guard/forward Aushara Hostetler, 5-1 guard Marly Houston and 5-1 guard Natalie Morre.

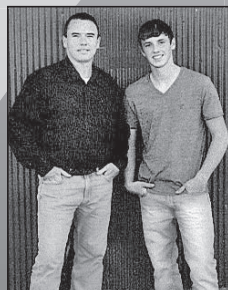
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## Crouch to use more offense-minded approach

Coach Clay Crouch, returning for his fourth year at Linn, said he's looking to be more offense-minded this year.

"We've played pretty good defensively, but I want our players to believe in the idea of taking the shot if it's there," said Crouch. "With our size and athleticism, we have an opportunity to put more points on the board. That mindset is something we've been working on in practice, and I think the kids are buying into it a little more each day."

Last year, the Wildcats ended the year at 15-11 and had a strong run to the finish, winning 10 of the last 13 games after a 5-8 start to the season.

Despite entering the Class 3, District 9 tournament as the seven seed, the Wildcats were ready for Blair Oaks, but came up short after a valiant effort in a 73-58 loss.

"This loss stung a bit," said Crouch. "The last loss always does, especially when the kids played with all their heart and did what we asked but still came up short."

Crouch added that he was proud of the way the team played together.

"We truly grew as a program from day one," said Crouch following the loss. "I told the kids that we have to set a culture and it has started to take place. We want kids to work hard, play defense and be unselfish as a team, and they have started to embrace that. That's a testament to the kids, and hopefully that starts the Wildcat Way."

The coach said the team's goals include being competitive in the conference and doing well at districts.

"We always hope to do well against conference teams, and we certainly want a better result at districts than we had last year," said Crouch. "We're not going to get ahead of ourselves though. We're taking it one game at a time. I want us to make good decisions on every play, and play consistently on both ends of the floor. It's the little things that add up to make a successful program, and these guys are working hard to do that. I'm very optimistic about our season."

This year's team features four seniors that will factor heavily into the success of the season.

"All of them have put in a lot of effort over the last three years, and we will rely on them for leadership," said Crouch.

Senior Drew Voss, a 6-5 post player, earned second-team All-Conference last year and returns as a good leader for the Wildcats. He scored 7.4 points and grabbed 5.9 rebounds a game in 2018.

"He's an anchor for our defense," said Crouch. "He's improved a lot, and hopefully we can get him to score a little more this year. He's a good rebounder and does the little things we need him to do."

Playing guard/forward, 6-2 senior Jackson Voss brings a 6.2 PPG average back to the team, along with 3.5 rebounds a contest.

"Jackson is playing better defense, and will likely cover the opponent's best offensive player this year," said Crouch. "He's a sneaky shooter and can hit pretty much from anywhere. We want to expand his role some this year. He's a good kid and

I look for him to be a solid leader."

The third senior on the roster is 5-7 guard Parker Patterson, who scored six points and snagged a couple rebounds per game last year. "He works hard and has great energy," said Crouch. "Parker sets the tone in practice, and he's really a pretty good shooter. He wants to do all he can to help the team win."

Senior Alex Grellner, a 6-3 guard/forward, has improved on his shooting from last season, during which he scored 4.2 points a game to go with 2.8 rebounds on average.

"His skills overall have improved a lot over the summer," said Crouch. "In practice, he has been more aggressive in going to the hole and rebounding, and we'll need that this year."

The final senior on the roster is newcomer Chris Kmiec, who at 5-9 is trying roundball for the first time, and will play on the frosh squad. "He wanted to go out with a bang and try something new," said Crouch. "He's a fun kid to have on the team, and just loves being out there any chance he gets."

Linn's returning top scorer from a year ago is 6-6 junior Caleb Maassen, who posted 14.6 points a game while grabbing 5.9 rebounds on average, also a team high.

"He just keeps getting better," said Coach Crouch. "His work ethic is solid, and he's put a lot of time and practice to improving his game. Caleb drives well, but he can also pull up for the jumper, and he's very aggressive in the middle on rebounding. I expect he will have another

great season."

Maassen earned second-team All-District and first-team All-Conference honors last year.

Junior Alek Peters, a 5-8 guard, is a good shooter that scored 5.2 points per game in 2018, and grabbed two rebounds a contest.

"Alek has stepped up and become a leader on this team, with a lot of hard work," said Crouch. "He's really filled his brother's shoes well, and he has a lot of potential to be a big scorer for us."

Austin McKim, a 6-2 junior guard/forward, provided some big minutes last year. "He should be even better this year, and will again give us some quality time on the floor," Crouch said. "He does a good job doing what's asked of him, no matter what that is, and he's a good defender."

McKim pitched in 2.4 points and one rebound a game last year.

Junior Andy Hueste (5-9 guard) has improved defensively, and is a good shooter as well, returning with 2.2 points a game from last year. "He's done a good job in practice, and does everything we ask of him," said Crouch.

Caden Robinson a 5-7 junior guard, doesn't have flashy stats, but he's a gamer. "He loves playing defense," said Crouch. "That's his calling card. He has improved on the offensive side of the floor as well. He's a hard worker, and he's becoming a

See Linn Boys  
Page 11B

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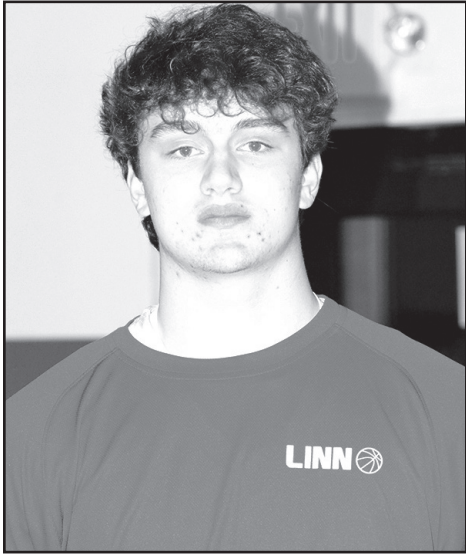
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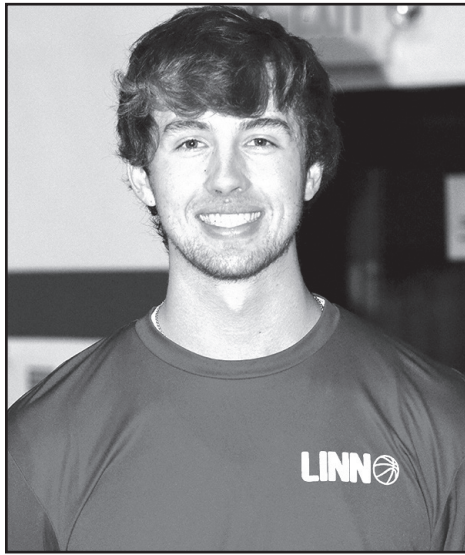
## Senior Spotlight Questions

- 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?



**Alex Grellner**

- 1) Spending my last year of high school with a great team.
- 2) Contributing to each win this season, and earning a district title.
- 3) To have a winning record.
- 4) My parents, because they're always there for me.
- 5) Staying positive, whether it's a win or a loss.
- 6) Going to a four-year college.



**Jackson Voss**

- 1) Finishing my final year strongly.
- 2) Winning a district title, along with a good season.
- 3) Being as good as we can be, and showing our potential.
- 4) Eric Hueste. He's a god because he bought me dinner, and kills big deer.
- 5) Being a good teammate and keeping my temper in check.
- 6) Living life to the fullest.



**Drew Voss**

- 1) Playing basketball and baseball. They're fun.
- 2) Winning a district title.
- 3) To go well above .500 in both sports.
- 4) My parents, because they make time for me and always make it to my games.
- 5) To have respect for your teammates and opponents.
- 6) I plan to attend St. Louis Community College to play baseball.



**Parker Patterson**

- 1) Graduation.
- 2) Winning a district title and having a great time with the team.
- 3) Making my teammates better every day.
- 4) My parents, because they will always be there, no matter what. They have helped me every step of the way become the person I am today, and always will be.
- 5) Being a good teammate, win or lose, and staying positive.
- 6) I plan to attend State Tech to pursue a degree in industrial electricity.

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**MEMBERS OF** the Linn cheer squad are, from left right, manager Leighann Horan, Paige Porter, Kayla Arlen, Kristen Arlen, Lauren Peterson, Faith McKim, Courtney Nichols, Kylie Ryan, Rourke Honey, Morgan Strope, Bella Russell and manager Laura Lange.

## Cheer returns to Linn

Cheerleading returns to Linn after being absent for several years, and Coach Diann Churchill said she's excited to see the girls progress, adding that cheer is an important and fun element of basketball.

"Having cheerleading is important because it allows students to take leadership and ownership of the pride in their school and fellow students," she said. "The cheerleaders pump up the crowd and the crowd pumps up the team."

Churchill said she was approached by several students asking if she would sponsor the start-up of the cheer program.

"I was not looking to sponsor another program; however thinking about it and seeing the passion the students had for cheer to come back, I decided I would do my best," said Churchill. "I do not have cheer experience, but I am willing to learn. I have already started pulling resources and

doing research."

Thus far in practice, and at the Red & White Scrimmage on Thursday, the Lady Wildcats have been learning quickly and are excited to learn new things. "We are sticking to basics since we are new and rebuilding but I foresee being able to do more complicated things in the near future," Churchill noted. "My hope and goal for this year is to reestablish a squad and regain the confidence of the community in us. Once we have confidence in our abilities we are planning on tumbling and having fun with formations."

Team members are junior Paige Porter, sophomores Kayla Arlen, Kristen Arlen, Lauren Peterson and Faith McKim, and freshmen Courtney Nichols, Kylie Ryan, Rourke Honey, Morgan Strope, Bella Russell. Managers are freshmen Leighann Horan and Laura Lange.

### Linn Boys From Page 9B

better leader."

Juniors Drew Strope and Hayden Phillips will dress out for varsity games,

but will see a lot of JV time as they continue to develop. "Both have shown a lot of improvement since last year," said Crouch.

"They're becoming more complete players, and will give us some good minutes when they're on the floor."



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**LINDSEY BRANDT** reaches to pop the ball loose against Rachel Keilholz in Thursday's Red & White Scrimmage at Linn. At right, Drew Voss goes up for an easy bucket, and below, Drew Strope puts up a fade shot against Aidan Kline.



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### JV, frosh Wildcats learning the system

Linn's JV and frosh teams are working hard in practice as they learn the system with coaches Ryan Rost and Mike Nolting.

"I've been happy with the way the guys are progressing," said Coach Rost, in his second year with the JV squad. "They're doing everything we ask of them, and doing what they can to improve so they can help the varsity program."

Juniors Drew Strope and Hayden Phillips will play JV but also suit up for varsity games as they continue to develop.

Joining them on the JV team are juniors Aidan Kline, Austin Grellner, Austin Wolfe, Dakota Pollard and Keagan Heywood, sophomore Dillan Blauvelt, and freshmen Zach Dodson and JD Kruger.

Several of these players will see time on the frosh squad, which also includes freshmen Landon Bennett, Brendan Ely and Cody Leivian.

"We'll have the same mindset at the JV and frosh level to be more offensive," said Rost. "We have a lot of talent, and our job is to piece it all together. The kids are doing a great job so far."

# Good Luck

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**MEMBERS OF** the Fatima cheerleading squad are, from left to right, front row, freshman Aliana Peters; second row (sitting), freshmen Zoe Rehagen and Katelyn Herrbach; third row (kneeling), junior Maria Juergensmeyer and senior Alecia Naab; fourth row, (standing) senior Hunter Anderson, junior Elizabeth Hilkemeyer, sophomores Alison Haslag and Sydney Falter; and in the flying position, junior Leah Groene. The team competed in regionals and qualified for the state competition, which was held Saturday in St. Charles.



**MEMBERS OF** the Fatima dance team are, from left to right, front row, seniors Alese Stratman, Morgan Grothoff and Monica Corey; second row, freshman Cora Adams, and juniors Reagan Verhoff, Jade Schanzmeyer and Cora Winkelman; and in the back row junior Lexi Poston, junior Hannah Buechler and sophomore Ella Winkelman. Not pictured is senior manager Bailey Holland.

**More on Fatima cheerleading on Page 17B and dance squad is on Page 20B**

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## Comets hope experience will make a difference at state

Fatima wrestling coach Kurt Strope returns with assistant Les Rosenborough for another season on the mat, and Strope said he is hopeful the team's experience will make a difference in how the Comets do in districts and at the state meet.

"We are looking to repeat our performance in duals this season," said Strope. "We had a really good record last year but we want to improve on it, and set up a better opportunity for ourselves in the post-season. It will depend on how the guys fall into the weight classes."

Fatima features four returning state qualifiers from last year's squad, including three who placed.

"We have a strong group of juniors returning, and they all look primed to do better than last year," said Strope. "Our placers should be competitive again, and others should help us make our way into the upper echelon at state as a team. We finished 10th as a team last year, and our goal is to bring home a top-four team trophy."

Last year at state, Fatima finished with four medalists and finished in the top 10 as a team for the first time.

"I think it was a very good tournament we wrestled our butts off and we came back with something to show for it," said Strope after last year's state meet. "I think the fire has been lit in each of the individuals on the team those that made it to the tournament and those that didn't to make it there place higher."

Lucas Laux leads the group of state placers, returning to the mat with a second-

place finish at last year's state meet. "He's worked very hard on strength and technique over the summer and it shows," said Strope. "He's trying to get to the next step, which would be a state championship."

Coming off a great cross country season in which he earned individual All-State honors and a second straight team championship, Laux is in a good spot.

"He's in great shape, and I look for him to be highly competitive in every match," said Strope, noting that Laux and several others (unless noted) have not been confirmed a weight class.

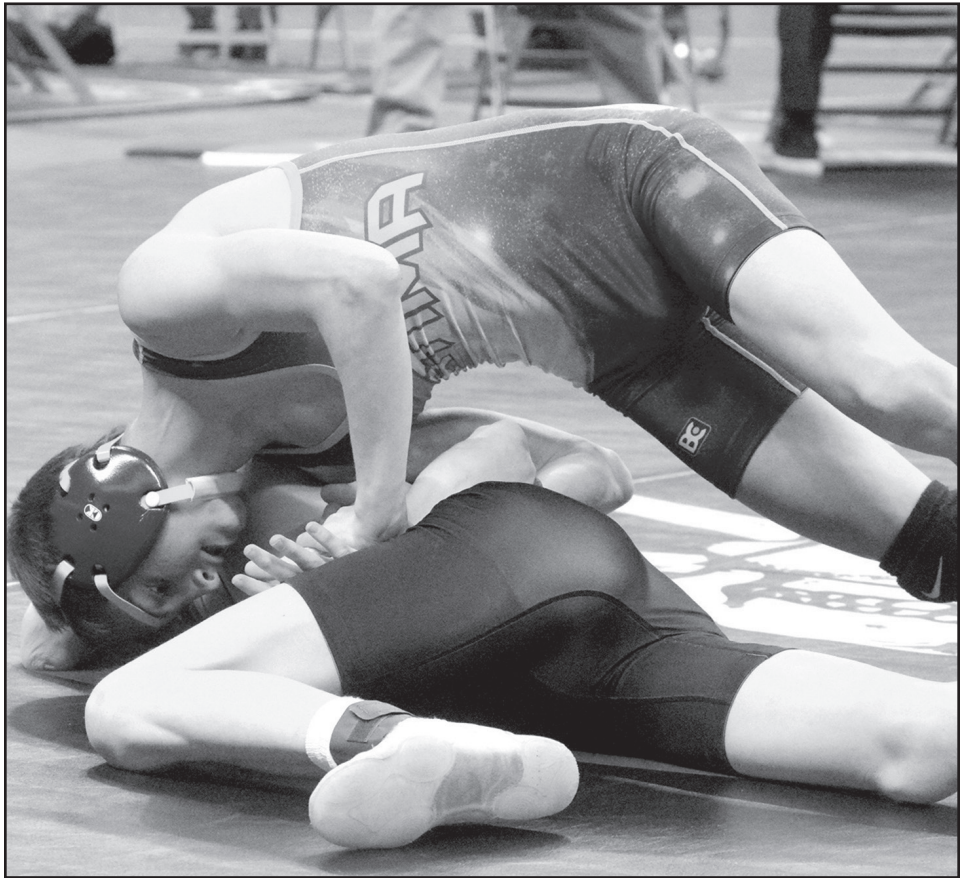
Last year, Laux got a first-period semifinal pin with a cradle to carry himself into the finals, where he battled but came up on point short of the championship against Logan Ferrarow of Whitfield.

Jason Strope earned fourth place last year, and is hungry to return and make his way higher onto the podium. "Jason had several close bouts last year, and if one or another of those had gone his way, he could have been competing in the title match," said Coach Strope. "He's working hard to get there this year."

Strope pinned his opponent in the do-or-die round of competition but lost by a point in the third-place match.

Blake Wiles is looking to improve on a sixth-place state finish. "He started well last year but injuries prevented him from being in the weight room, and it had an impact on his season," said Strope. "He's really motivated this year, and so far he's looking very good in practice."

The final state qualifier is Zac Tune.



**JASON STROPE** returns after a fourth-place finish at state last year.

"He was one bout and a few points from being in the placer matches last year at state, and I look for him to get farther this year," said Strope. "Like the others, he's been hitting the weights hard, and working

**See Fatima Wrestling  
Page 22B**



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## Comets rebuilding after graduation of six seniors

Fatima coach Ryan Robertson, who begins his 14th year as a head coach, said he's very excited about the prospect of a winning season, especially since almost all his players from last year are back on the hardwood.

"We didn't have the season we quite wanted last year," said Robertson, as the Comets finished the 2018-19 campaign at 9-15 with a 3-4 mark in the Show-Me Conference, and lost 56-40 to Father Tolton in the Class 3, District 9 tournament.

"In the biggest game of the season against one of the best teams our kids came out and played one of their best games," said Robertson after the loss. "Tolton has great size and athleticism and our kids hung right in there."

Two big factors stood out, as Tolton scored 14 points off turnovers while Fatima put up seven; and in the second-chance category, Tolton held a 13-2 scoring edge.

"We're working on those aspects of the game," said Robertson of this year's team. "That game stung because we played well and were in the game, but as we look forward to this season, we're in pretty good shape."

Last year's overall campaign was hampered by physical challenges.

"We had a lot of injuries that plagued us at different times, and we just never hit our stride," said Robertson. "It was hard for the group to find a rhythm, especially after Brett Werner suffered a season-ending ankle injury just after Christmas."

Werner (6-2) is back and healthy, and brings a 22.1 points-per-game (PPG)

average to the floor, along with seniors Cole Lehmen (13.0 PPG) and Mason Stuecken (5.6 PPG), juniors Dawson Huhn (3.4 PPG), Carter Karst (3.0 PPG) and Luke Boyce (2.0 PPG), and sophomores in Lee Verslues (12.2 PPG), Leo Peters (4.0 PPG) and Jacob Vanderfeltz (3.5 PPG).

"Brett averaged 22 points a game when he was healthy," said Robertson. "He was great at attacking and finishing around the rim. He also has the ability to knock down the three-pointer."

Lehmen, at 6-2 led the team in scoring last year, and is a returning All-Conference player. "Cole is a typical knock-down shooter," Robertson added. "He's a good leader on the floor and did a good job last year of leading our transition attack."

Stuecken is one of those players that does a little bit of everything. "He has a super-high IQ, and will play every position on the floor offensively," said Robertson. "He will run the point guard at times and is a capable shooter. At times he will be required to guard the other team's best player."

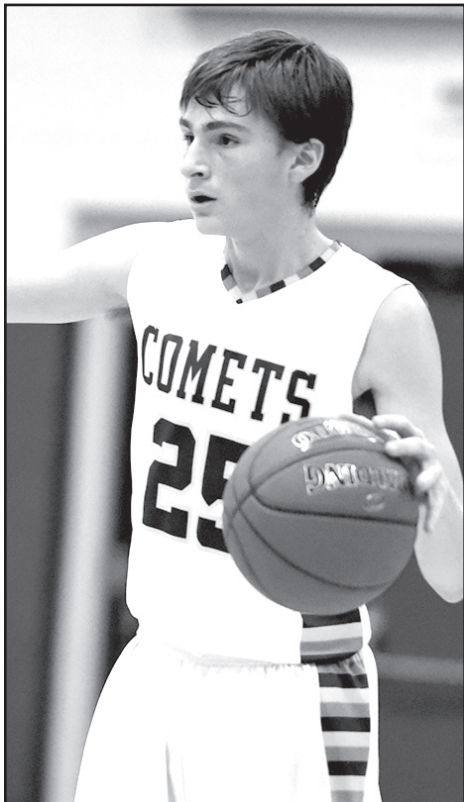
Robertson described Huhn (6-1) as a great defender who has the ability to hit an open three-pointer, while Karst (6-1) is "a very smart player and a knock-down shooter."

Boyce at 6-2 is "a very strong kid and a great rebounder," Robertson said, and Verslues (5-7) stepped in last year as



**LEE VERSLUES** stepped up last year and ran point for the Comets, a role he will continue this year.

See Fatima Varsity  
Page 23B



**FATIMA SENIOR** Masan Stuecken is a versatile player who will be called upon to handle a variety of duties this year.

### Fatima Basketball Class 3 District 9

- \* Blair Oaks \* California
- \* Eldon \* Father Tolton
- \* Fatima \* South Callaway
- \* Southern Boone \* Versailles

\*\* District host TBA \*\*

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## Fatima's JV and freshmen continue tradition of hard work, learning

Fatima's JV and freshmen are learning the ropes and continuing the tradition of hard work as they look to move up the ranks.

Nate Lehmen, Carter Karst, Dawson Huhn, Luke Boyce and Jon Dickneite will split time between varsity and JV, and are featured in the varsity story. Slated to play JV is 5-9 sophomore guard Carson Schulte.

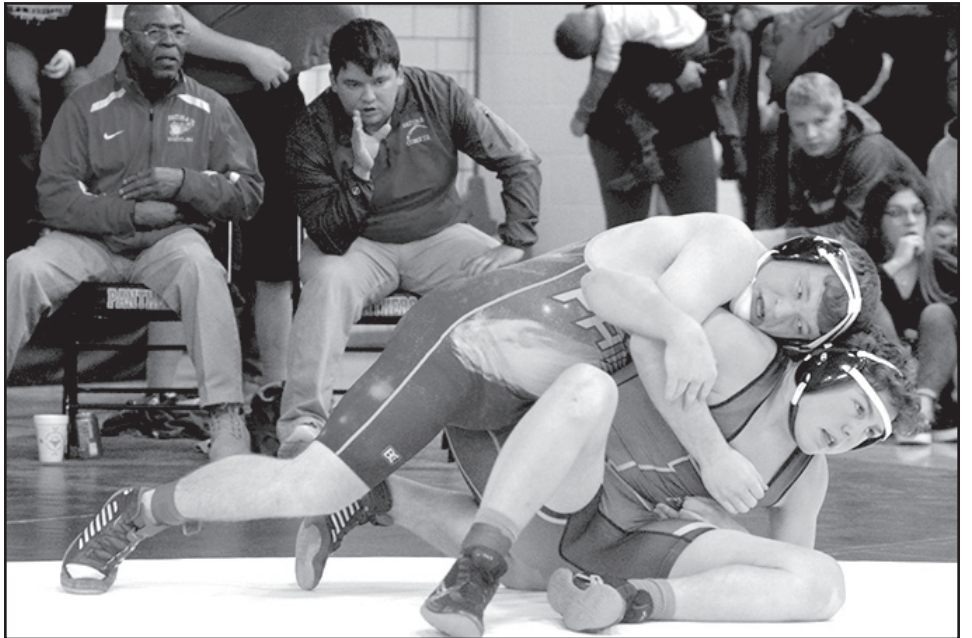
"These kids off to a great start, and we look for them to keep improving as they work for varsity minutes," said Coach Jeff Adamson.

Members of the freshman team are Cooper Kleffner (5-11 guard), Ethan Luebbering (6-2 forward), Jacob Schulte (5-10 guard), Alex Reinkemeyer (5-6 guard), Kayden Struempf (5-11 forward) Jack Robertson (5-11 guard), Tanner Bock (5-11 forward), Tyler Fortson (6-0 guard), Garrett Mantle (5-11 forward) Izac Rehagen (6-1 forward) and Blake Gentges (5-9 guard).

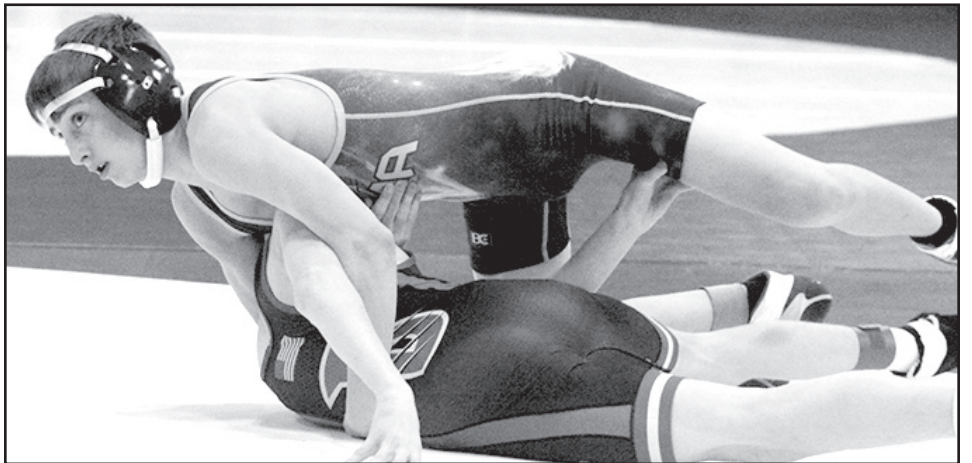
Freshman that will split between that squad and JV are Kleffner, Fortson, Robertson, Schulte, Rehagen and Gentges. The other freshmen who will play some JV but mostly focus on the freshman level are Struempf, Reinkemeyer, Luebbering, Tanner Bock and Mantle.

Fatima will play a JV and a freshman schedule, with players mixing it up to see where they will play as the year progresses.

"This group is working hard in practice as they make the adjustment to high school basketball," said Ethan Williams.



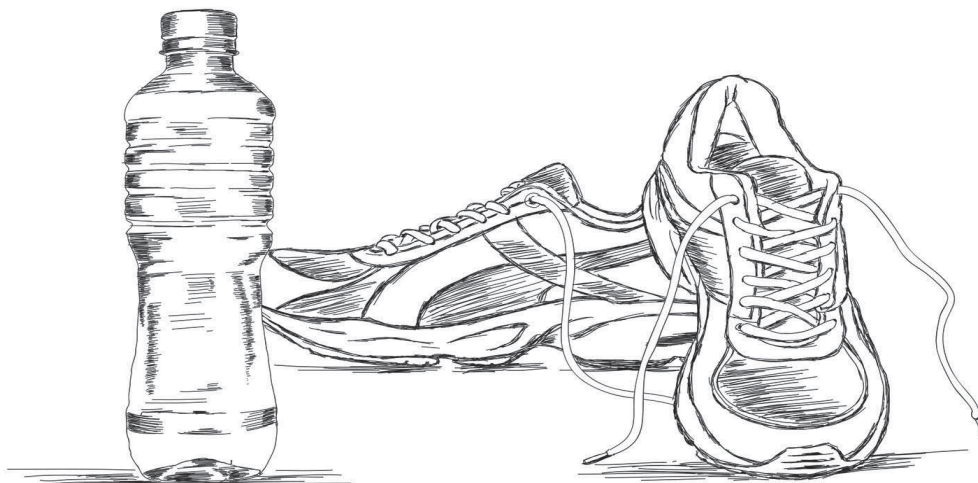
**LONE SENIOR** Caleb Reinkemeyer is hoping for better matches and a run at the state tournament. Blake Wiles, below, finished sixth at state last year.



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## Lady Comets cheer team finishes 8th at state competition

Fatima cheerleaders have been training on many complex aerial stunts, such as the arabesque, two flier liberty, and higher basket tosses in preparation for both the state competition and the regular season.

"Many of our girls have learned different tumbling skills this year and we are also expanding to include three shoulder sits at one time during our second cheer," said Coach JoAnna Baughman, who took over the program this year, with help from Asst. Coach Crystal Miller. "We are brand-new coaches and would like to toss out an extra thanks to all the community and parent support we have had so far this season. I look forward to seeing what we

are capable of when we have been able to have summer practices and over a year of working together."

At Saturday's state competition in St. Charles, the Lady Comets finished eighth.

"I'm very proud of the girls," said Baughman. "They worked really hard to qualify at the regional meet, and on Saturday, did everything they could against some really tough competition. I think as we continue to progress, we'll have a really solid cheer squad."

The cheer team does not go to all the away games, but will go to tournaments and select other games. Currently, the plan is to cheer at mainly boys games and some

girls games, and possibly home wrestling matches.

Members of the Fatima cheerleading squad are seniors Hunter Anderson and

Alecia Naab, juniors Leah Groene, Elizabeth Hilkemeyer and Maria Juergensmeyer, sophomores Aliona Haslag and Sydney Falter freshmen Aliana Peters, Zoe Rehagen and Katelyn Herrbach.



**Congrats on your 8th-place state finish! NAJ**



**FATIMA CHEERLEADERS** work on a routine at a recent practice.

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## Hoops

### 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?

## Wrestling



**Cole Lehmen**

- 1) Spending one last season on the court with the boys.
- 2) To average 10 points, 5 rebounds and 5 assists per game.
- 3) To win a district title and possibly go farther.
- 4) Matt Baker, because he knows how to have fun, but also knows when to get serious and get work done.
- 5) It means that you always help your teammates and opponents up when they fall, and not trash-talk your opponents, and helping your teammates keep their heads up when they get down.
- 6) I'm going to Webster University to play golf, and major in computer science.



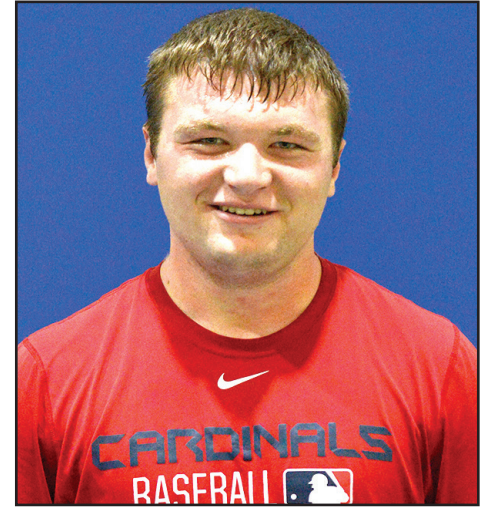
**Brett Werner**

- 1) Stepping up to be a leader.
- 2) I hope to break 1,000 points for my career.
- 3) Getting past districts and getting a banner.
- 4) Steven Brandt, because as a freshman he was a senior and was like a big brother.
- 5) Playing hard and smart, not rough or mean, and keeping the game fun.
- 6) I plan to attend State Tech to pursue a degree in architectural engineering.



**Masan Stuecken**

- 1) Playing with a good group of guys.
- 2) Scoring more and being more aggressive on defense.
- 3) Winning districts and more.
- 4) Superman, because he has two identities and saves lives.
- 5) Competing but still respecting opponents.
- 6) I plan to attend college.



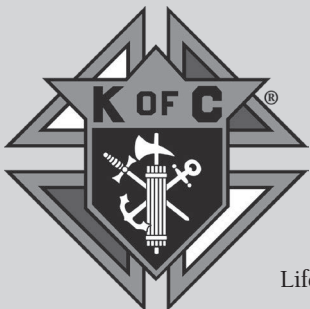
**Caleb Reinkemeyer**

- 1) I am looking forward to a great season and just having as much fun as I can.
- 2) To get a better record this season.
- 3) To do my best to contribute to the team, and hopefully, help them put a banner on the wall.
- 4) My mom, because she always told me to try new things, and to never give up no matter how much I may want to.
- 5) It means that when you beat someone in a match and they get sad, you need to cheer them up and tell them there is always another match.
- 6) I plan to attend Lincoln University and pursue a job in education, but if I am offered a wrestling scholarship, I would take it.

# Good Luck Fatima Students!



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## Baker, Lady Comets want better season and deeper run

Fifth-year Fatima girls coach Matt Baker is hoping to improve on last year's mark of 19-6 and a better run in the district tournament.

"We were upset in the first round of district play by a young and talented Southern Boone team," he said. "This year we're in a rebuilding phase after the graduation of six seniors. All six of those seniors were integral to our success over the past four years. As usual, our schedule is extremely tough for a smaller school and we will have to navigate a couple tough stretches. Specifically, January looks to be one of those brutal stretches, when we have Blair Oaks, California, St. James, and two tournaments. In general, we expect to continue to play extremely hard, pressure our opponents, and play an up-tempo style that is fun for both the players and our fans."

Fatima entered the Class 3, District 9 tournament last year as the third seed and had high hopes for competing in the district championship game. However, those hopes were dashed following a 75-70 overtime loss to Southern Boone.

"The game was extremely physical," said Baker after the game. "Our kids, as always, played their hearts out and left it all on the floor. It was a great high school basketball game from start to finish."

Baker took responsibility for the premature end to the season.

"The loss is on me," he said. "The girls did everything I asked and executed the game plan. I didn't think SoBo could hurt us from the outside and they obviously got

hot."

Southern Boone hit 10-25 from three-point range and Fatima covered 7-17.

The Lady Comets won the Linn tournament, took third in the Comet Classic, and finished second in the Osage Tournament.

Fatima will be led by returning All-State shooting guard Lauren Brandt, who has started for the Lady Comets since her freshman year.

"She is a talented scorer and a high-level defender as well," said Baker. "Lauren has great court awareness and is an aggressive player not afraid to mix it up with anyone. She chases every ball and winds up on the floor as much as anyone trying to get it. I look for her to be a huge part of our success again this year."

Brandt finished with 16 points and nearly four rebounds per game last year and hit 80% from the FT line to earn first-team All-District and All-Conference honors.

Junior guard Karli Struempf (5-8) will be the team's starting point guard. "She started the second half of the season for us last year, and brings a toughness to the floor," said Baker. "Karli is a great ball-handler and doesn't make a lot of mistakes. She'll do a good job leading the offense."

Lucy Williams a 5-8 junior guard, is a knock-down shooter with tons of range. "She will help us stretch zone defenses,"

See Lady Comets  
Page 21B



JUNIOR DANI Stegeman is a fierce competitor and brings experience to the varsity level for the Lady Comets.



Susan Lange,  
RN, ANP-BC



Michael  
Steenbergen M.D.

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## Fatima dance team primed for a great season

The Fatima dance team returns to the court this year under the direction of Coach Alicia Massman, who said she is excited about the upcoming winter season.

"We have some very talented ladies on our team this season," she said. "The amount of work they put into perfecting these routines is a true testament to how

dedicated they are to this team and making this program a success. We have been working on new choreography and skills to keep the crowds entertained during our halftime performances. They will be performing two routines this year and are very excited to show off their talents."

The dance team will perform Nov. 26, Dec. 10, Jan. 3

and 10, and Feb. 3, 11 and 20, at home games.

Team members are seniors Alese Stratman, Morgan Grothoff, Monica Corey and Bailey Holland (manager), juniors Reagan Verhoff, Jade Schanzmeyer, Cora Winkelman Lexi Poston and Hannah Buechler, sophomore Ella Winkelman, and freshman Cora Adams.



**Alese Stratman**

- 1) Making memories with my classmates.
- 2) To become more of a leader, and role model for my teammates.
- 3) To be the best we can be, and grow closer as a team.
- 4) Definitely my coach, Alicia, because she is an amazing and supportive leader.
- 5) Doing your best and encouraging others to do their best.
- 6) I plan to attend college for a bachelor's degree in psychology.



**Monica Corey**

- 1) Making my last year a great one, and making great memories.
- 2) To be a better dancer and have a bond with my teammates by the end of the season.
- 3) To be excited for next season and work even harder.
- 4) Coach Alicia Massman, because she always keeps us going and never gives up.
- 5) Working together as a team and never giving up on each other when something goes wrong.
- 6) I plan to attend Mizzou to become an agricultural teacher.



**Morgan Grothoff**

- 1) Leading my dance team and knowing it will be my most memorable year.
- 2) Perfecting my routines exactly.
- 3) Practicing our routines and having fun.
- 4) My brother, because he always knows how to handle a situation, and is always there for me.
- 5) Keeping my team happy and building them while building up other teams.
- 6) I plan to attend State Technical College for physical therapy or radiology.



**Bailey Holland**

- 1) Making memories with my friends.
- 2) To grow closer with my teammates.
- 3) To try as hard as we can, and do the best that we can.
- 4) My mom, because she gets me through things that I cannot get through alone.
- 5) Without sportsmanship, our team won't get very far.
- 6) I will be attending East Central College in Union and major in early childhood development.

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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?

## Fatima Cheerleading



**Hunter Anderson**

- 1) Being able to head off to college next year, and getting to go to state this year.
- 2) To advance physically in cheer, and to get my jumps higher.
- 3) For us to get two extensions and cradle from extensions during homecoming.
- 4) My mom, because she's been through so much but remembers to stay strong no matter what.
- 5) Supporting everyone through everything, even our small struggles. There is no "I" in team.
- 6) I plan to attend the University of Central Missouri to pursue a degree in nursing.



**Alecia Naab**

- 1) To watch each and every one of my bonds grow with my teammates.
- 2) To finish out happy with what I did during the season.
- 3) To stick together no matter how hard it gets.
- 4) My mom and brother, because no matter how hard things get, they never give up.
- 5) To be nice to the other team no matter what.
- 6) I plan to attend William Woods University for mathematics.

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## Fatima Girls Basketball

| DATE               | OPPONENT                                | LEVEL          | HOME/AWAY | TIME(S) |
|--------------------|---|----------------|-----------|---------|
| 11/25/19           | School of the Osage                     | Varsity/JV     | Away      | 6:00 pm |
| 12/02/19--12/07/19 | Eugene Tournament                       | Varsity        | Away      | TBA     |
| 12/07/19--12/11/19 | Fatima JV Tournament                    | JV             | Home      | TBA     |
| 12/09/19           | Eldon High School                       | Varsity/JV     | Home      | 5:30 pm |
| 12/12/19           | Southern Boone High School              | 9th/JV/Varsity | Away      | 5:00 pm |
| 12/14/19--12/18/19 | St. James JV Tournament                 | JV             | Away      | TBA     |
| 12/16/19           | Blair Oaks High School                  | 9th/ Jv        | Home      | 5:00 pm |
| 12/17/19           | New Bloomfield High School              | Varsity/JV     | Home      | 6:00 pm |
| 12/19/19           | Helias High School                      | 9th Grade      | Home      | 6:00 pm |
| 01/03/20           | Blair Oaks High School                  | Varsity        | Home      | 6:00 pm |
| 01/06/20           | California High School                  | 9th/JV/Varsity | Away      | 5:00 pm |
| 01/09/20           | Owensville High School                  | Varsity/JV     | Away      | 6:00 pm |
| 01/13/20--01/17/20 | Comet Classic                           | Varsity        | Home      | TBA     |
| 01/21/20--01/25/20 | Osage Tournament                        | Varsity        | Away      | TBA     |
| 01/27/20           | St. James High School                   | Varsity/JV     | Away      | 6:00 pm |
| 01/30/20           | St. Elizabeth High School               | JV             | Home      | 6:00 pm |
| 02/03/20           | Helias High School                      | Varsity/JV     | Home      | 6:00 pm |
| 02/06/20           | Eugene High School                      | Varsity/JV     | Home      | 6:00 pm |
| 02/10/20           | Tuscumbia High School                   | Varsity/JV     | Home      | 6:00 pm |
| 02/13/20           | South Callaway High School              | Varsity/JV     | Away      | 6:00 pm |
| 02/17/20           | Russellville High School (Senior Night) | Varsity/JV     | Home      | 6:00 pm |
| 02/18/20           | Chamois High School                     | JVB/VG/VB      | Away      | 6:00 pm |
| 02/20/20           | Linn High School                        | Varsity/JV     | Home      | 6:00 pm |
| 02/22/20--02/29/20 | Districts                               | Varsity        | Away      | TBA     |

## Fatima Basketball Class 3 District 9

- \* Blair Oaks \* California \* Eldon
- \* Father Tolton \* Fatima \* South Callaway
- \* Southern Boone \* Versailles

\*\* District host TBA \*\*

### Lady Comets From Page 19B

said Baker.

Junior Dani Stegeman (5-10 guard) was the team's backup point guard last season and will challenge for a starting position. "Dani is a fierce competitor and brings some experience to the team," said Baker.

Londyn Stuckenschneider, a junior forward standing at 5-10, is a tough defender and a natural rebounder who will provide solid minutes for the Lady Comets. "She's a hard-nosed player and loves challenging for the ball," said Baker.

Junior Taylor Bexten, a 5-7 guard, is a natural scorer who makes very few mistakes. "It's nice to have that kind of consistency out on the floor," said Baker.

Sophomore Morgan Luebbering, a 6-3 power forward, brings a lot to the table. "She's a talented post player who had a very solid freshman year," said Baker. "She is a natural scorer and shot blocker and is set to have a breakout season."

Sophomore Chayce Gier (5-8 guard) is also going to see time at the varsity level. "She's a smooth offensive player who will add depth to our backcourt," said Baker.

Freshman Ellie Brune, a 5-10 guard, will also join the varsity team. "She's an impact freshman who is a natural scorer and a tough defender," said Baker.

Junior Lydia Hurst (5-10 forward), and sophomores Anna Eichholz (5-7 forward) and Chesney Luebbering (5-7 forward), will also suit up for varsity play.

"These young ladies are showing improvement and will give us some quality minutes," said Baker.

The JV and freshman teams are working hard in practice to get ready for the season.

"I've been pleased with the effort these young ladies are putting into improving," said Baker, who will be assisted by John Fick. "The ultimate goal is to get them ready for the next level, and they're striving to get there."

Sophomores are Eliana Steinman (5-11 forward), Emma Kleffner (5-9 forward) and Victoria Nivens (5-11 forward), and freshmen are Claire Bexten (5-9 guard), Carley Fechtel (5-8 guard), Lydia Brunnert (5-9 forward), Emma Bower (5-10 forward), Ava Stuecken (5-6 guard) and Caleigh Huot (5-6 guard).

### Lady Comets at Camdenton Jamboree Nov. 21

- 5:00 Fatima vs. Waynesville
- 5:30 Fatima vs. Central
- 6:30 Fatima vs. Camdenton

All games are two six-minute quarters.

## Fatima Wrestling From Page 14B

on his technique.”

The team’s lone senior is Caleb Reinkemeyer, who will compete at either 195 or 220.

“We’re not sure yet what weight he’ll hit, but I look forward to helping him improve,” said Strope. “We both have a goal of him going farther than he did last year, and that he can help us at districts with our team score. He’s a quiet leader and does the right things, so he leads by example. I have a lot of confidence in him to have a great season.”

Other juniors on the squad are Alex Even, and Jason Woodruff.

“Alex has done a lot of off-season conditioning and seen a lot of time on the mat,” said Strope. “He hopes to find a weight class for himself this year. He was behind Jason last year, and with his own class, he has a good chance of getting to state.”

Woodruff (182 or 195) will have an equally good chance of success. “He fills either of these classes better than last year, and was only one match away from state last year, so I think if he continues to work hard, he can get there,” said Strope.

Sophomores are Luke Schroeder (152), Eli Froning and Morgan Eggleston.

“Luke had a lot of wins as a freshman, and we’re looking to build on that,” said Strope. “He turned a corner over the summer and could take the next step at districts.”

Froning was injured most of last year, but looks healthy so far in the 2019-20 campaign. “He may fill a void left by Sam Martin’s graduation,” said Strope. “Sam was a state placer last year, and it would be great to see Eli move in and help us as a team.”

Morgan had a pretty good year in 2018. “She has a goal to get more wins this year, and with the Tim she spent working on improving, she has a great opportunity to do it,” said Strope. “I look forward to

seeing her succeed.”

Rounding out the team is freshman Jackson Logan, who will compete in the 132-pound class. “Jackson will sit behind others and battle primarily at the JV level, but he’ll gain a lot of experience and get used to the motions and technique he needs to improve,” said Strope. “We should see some big improvements as the year progresses, and it will be good for him in future years.”

The junior high team is coached by Pete Falotico, and includes eighth-graders Porter Schaben, Cody Strope and Skyla Schroeder, and seventh-graders Trevor Herzing, Alek Tune and Randi Bax.

## Fatima HS Wrestling

| DATE               | OPPONENT   | LEVEL       | HOME/AWAY | TIME(S) |
|--------------------|--|-------------|-----------|---------|
| 11/21/19           | Blue and Gold Scrimmage                            | Varsity/JV  | Home      | 6:00 pm |
| 11/30/19--11/30/19 | Warrenton JV Tournament                            | Jr. Varsity | Away      | TBA     |
| 12/03/19           | Boonville Quad                                     | JV/Varsity  | Away      | 5:00 pm |
| 12/10/19           | @ Hallsville / Cap City and Rock Bridge            | Varsity     | Away      | 5:30 pm |
| 12/13/19           | Carrollton Dual Tournament                         | Varsity     | Away      | 4:00 pm |
| 12/14/19           | Rolla High School                                  | JV          | Away      | TBA     |
| 12/14/19           | Girls Wrestling @ Versailles                       |             | Away      | TBA     |
| 12/16/19           | Blair Oaks High School                             | Varsity     | Away      | 5:30 pm |
| 12/18/19           | Blair Oaks JV tournament                           | JV          | Away      | 3:00 pm |
| 12/20/19--12/21/19 | Battle at the Katy Trail                           | Varsity     | Away      | 1:00 pm |
| 01/09/20           | St. James High School / Capital High / S. Callaway | JV/Varsity  | Home      | 5:30 pm |
| 01/11/20           | Cameron "Crossroads Dual"                          | Varsity     | Away      | 8:00 am |
| 01/11/20           | Wonder Woman - Battle HS                           | Varsity     | Away      | 9:00 am |
| 01/14/20           | Helias / Southern Boone                            | JV/Varsity  | Home      | 5:30 pm |
| 01/16/20           | @ Versailles/ Tipton / Butler                      | Varsity/JV  | Away      | TBA     |
| 01/18/20--01/18/20 | Owensville Tournament                              | Varsity     | Away      | 9:00 am |
| 01/21/20           | @ Fr.Tolton, Macon, Tipton                         | JV/Varsity  | Away      | 5:30 pm |
| 01/25/20--01/25/20 | Brookfield Invitational                            | Varsity     | Away      | 9:30 am |
| 01/28/20           | @ Lone Jack w/ Diamond and Sherwood                | Varsity     | Away      | TBA     |
| 01/28/20           | Girls Wrestling @ Osage                            | Varsity     | Away      | TBA     |
| 01/31/20           | Owensville JV Tournament                           | JV          | Away      | TBA     |
| 02/01/20           | Grandview Tournament                               | Varsity     | Away      | 9:00 am |
| 02/04/20           | Southern Bo - Owensville - S. Callaway             | JV/Varsity  | Home      | 5:00 pm |
| 02/08/20           | Hickman JV   | JV          | Away      | TBA     |
| 02/14/20--02/15/20 | District Tournament                                | Varsity     | Away      | TBA     |
| 02/20/20--02/22/20 | State Championships @ MU                           | Varsity     | Away      | TBA     |

## Fatima Wrestling Class 1 District 2

- \* Adrian \* Butler \* Diamond \* El Dorado Springs \* Fatima
- \* Holden \* Knob Noster \* Lone Jack \* Niangua \* Sherwood
- \* Summit Christian Academy \* Tipton
- \* University Academy Charter \* Versailles \* Warsaw

\*\* District host TBA \*\*

## Fatima JH Wrestling

| DATE               | OPPONENT                            | LEVEL       | HOME/AWAY | TIME(S) |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|---------|
| 11/18/19           | @ Mexico                            | Junior High | Away      | 6:00 pm |
| 11/22/19           | @ Blair Oaks and Centralia Tri-Meet | Junior High | Away      | 5:30 pm |
| 12/03/19           | @ Osage Tri-Meet                    | Junior High | Away      | 5:30 pm |
| 12/05/19           | @ Versailles                        | Jr High     | Away      | 5:00 pm |
| 12/07/19           | JC JH Wrestling Invitational        | Junior High | Away      | 9:00 am |
| 12/14/19--12/14/19 | Camdenton MS Invitational           | Junior High | Away      | 9:00 am |



**COACHES KURT** Strope and Les Rosenborough return with high hopes of finishing the season in the top echelon of teams at the state tournament.

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**Fatima Varsity**  
From Page 19B

freshman and did a good job at the point, a role he will continue this year. "Lee is a great ball-handler and passer who can score from attacking and hitting the open jumper," the coach said of the returning All-Conference player.

Peters (6-4) is "a long post player who can score from attacking and playing with his back to the basket and Vanderfeltz (6-1) plays much bigger than his size. "He is a great rebounder on both ends of the floor and plays with a ton of energy," said Robertson.

Nate Lehmen, a 6-5 sophomore is a

post player with the ability to stretch the floor, Robertson said, and Jonathan Dickneite a sophomore, is a sharpshooter in every sense of the word. "He has put on size and strength of the off-season and he could be a huge role in the success for the Comets. He will be expected to be a rebounder and be the zone buster on nights when teams are trying to pack it in."

Sophomore Nate Lehman will also see time at the varsity level. "I don't know if we've had a player come to the ranks that has changed himself physically and mentally more than Nate," said Robertson. "He is one of our biggest players and is shown that throughout the fall. He has a very high motor and will be asked to help on the boards and provide the inside presents that we will need."

Nathan Brandt, a 6-2 freshman, "May be young but he is a very smart player and a good shooter too," Robertson said. "Nathan will see substantial varsity minutes even though he's only a freshman. He does a very good job of handling the ball and can score it. He's got a great sense of the game and we are excited to see him blossom throughout the season."

Rebounding could be an issue, Robertson said. "We do not have a ton of height, but what we lack in height, we hope to make up for in effort and athleticism," he added. "Since we are guard-heavy we will play a more of an up- and-down style and hope to score in transition."

Some key games that are always

highlights on Fatima's schedule include Blair Oaks and Linn, both of which have very strong basketball programs.

Robertson said he is also looking forward to competing in the Eugene, St. James and Eldon tournaments this year.

"Everything we do, all the games we play against tough opponents, prepare us for districts, and we hope to be competitive," said Robertson. "We have a lot of talented scorers. We are hoping to have multiple guys that can score on any given night. And almost everyone has the ability to knock down the open three. As usual, we will look to play hard and pressure the ball."

Robertson is joined again by assistant coaches Jeff Adamson and Ethan Williams.

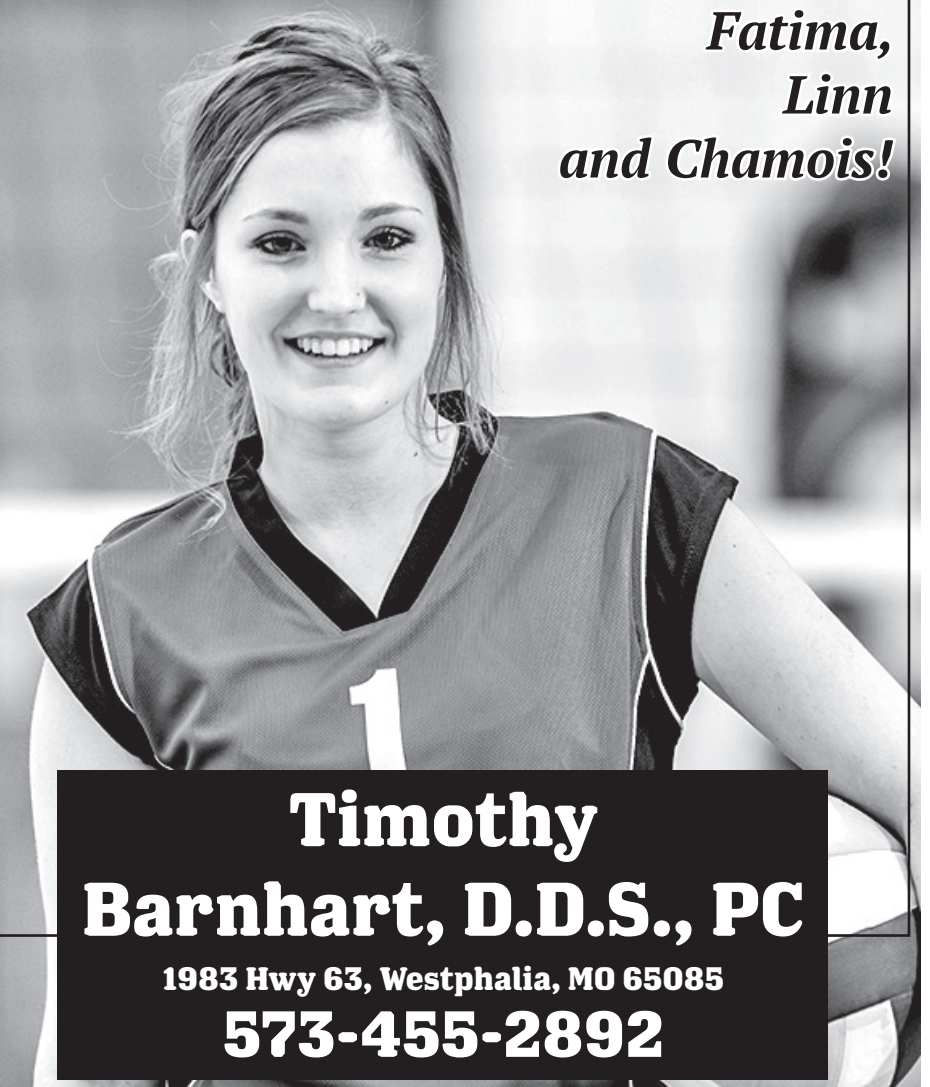
## Fatima Boys Basketball

| DATE               | OPPONENT                                | LEVEL          | HOME/AWAY | TIME(S)      |
|--------------------|---|----------------|-----------|--------------|
| 11/22/19           | Vienna High School                      | Varsity/JV     | Away      | 6:00 pm      |
| 11/26/19           | Eldon High School                       | 9th/JV/Varsity | Home      | 5:00 pm      |
| 12/02/19--12/07/19 | Eugene Tournament                       | Varsity        | Away      | TBA          |
| 12/05/19           | Mexico High School                      | 9th Grade      | Home      | 6:00 pm      |
| 12/07/19--12/11/19 | Fatima JV Tournament                    | JV             | Home      | TBA          |
| 12/10/19           | New Bloomfield High School              | JV/Varsity     | Home      | 6:00 pm      |
| 12/13/19           | Southern Boone High School              | 9th/JV/Varsity | Away      | 5:00 pm      |
| 12/16/19           | Blair Oaks High School                  | 9th/JV         | Home      | 5:30 pm 8:00 |
| 12/17/19           | Belle High School                       | Varsity/JV     | Away      | 6:00 pm      |
| 12/19/19           | Helias High School                      | 9th Grade      | Home      | 7:30 pm      |
| 12/20/19           | Dixon High School                       | JV/Varsity     | Home      | 6:00 pm      |
| 01/03/20           | Blair Oaks High School                  | Varsity        | Home      | 7:30 pm      |
| 01/07/20           | St. James High School                   | 9th/JV/Varsity | Home      | 5:00 pm      |
| 01/10/20           | South Callaway High School (Homecoming) | 9th/JV/Varsity | Home      | 5:00 pm      |
| 01/13/20           | Belle High School                       | 9th Grade      | Away      | 6:00 pm      |
| 01/20/20--01/25/20 | St. James Tournament                    | Varsity        | Away      | TBA          |
| 01/23/20           | Centralia High School                   | 9th Grade      | Home      | 6:00 pm      |
| 01/27/20--01/30/20 | Owensville 9th Tournament               |                | Away      | TBA          |
| 01/27/20--02/01/20 | Eldon Tournament                        | Varsity        | Away      | TBA          |
| 02/04/20           | St. Elizabeth High School               | JV/Varsity     | Away      | 6:00 pm      |
| 02/06/20           | Fr. Tolton Catholic High School         | 9th Grade      | Home      | 5:00 pm      |
| 02/06/20           | Tuscumbia High School                   | JV/Varsity     | Away      | 6:00 pm      |
| 02/07/20           | Capital City High School                | Varsity/JV     | Away      | 5:30 pm      |
| 02/10/20--02/15/20 | South Callaway JV Tournament            | Jr. Varsity    | Away      | TBA          |
| 02/11/20           | Eugene High School                      | JV/Varsity     | Home      | 6:00 pm      |
| 02/14/20           | Russellville High School                | Varsity/JV     | Away      | 6:00 pm      |
| 02/18/20           | Chamois High School                     | JVB/VG/VB      | Away      | 5:00 pm      |
| 02/21/20           | Linn High School                        | 9th/JV/Varsity | Home      | 5:00 pm      |
| 02/24/20--02/29/20 | Districts                               | Varsity        | Away      | TBA          |



**NATE LEHMEN** will see time at the varsity level this year. He spent a lot time in the off-season working on his conditioning, and will be a strong rebounder this year.

*You have alot to smile about!*  
*Good Luck*  
*Fatima,*  
*Linn*  
*and Chamois!*



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Linn Wildcats and Chamois Pirates  
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