# ALBURNETT GIRLS WRESTLING PREVI

### **BY TODD HUNT**

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The recent growth of girls wrestling in the state of Iowa has been enormous and the Pirates girls team this season is in direct reflection of an increase in numbers this season.

"We have 20 girls out for this year's team." said Pirates head coach Brian Mortez.

This year's Alburnett girls' team is young with five juniors, three sophomores and five freshmen. With the increase in numbers this season, coach Mortez will have the ability to fill almost every weight class.

"We are young. We will be able to fill 12-13 weights. The program is growing, and

girls are excited to wrestle." said coach Mortez.

Leading this year's junior class will be Lyni Gusick, a 2-time state medalist (4th and 7th). Additional returning starters include Carly McGraw, Jr. (25-19), Hallie Portwood, Jr. 25-22, Bree McCusker, Jr. and Mya Heather, So.

The Pirates will be returning three lettermen in Claire Willett, So., Zoe Steen, Jr., Marie Candler, So. They will also bring in a solid freshmen class that includes Julianna Burds from Central City, an AAU 2024 state runner-up, Taryn Moore, AAU 5th place, Kaitlyn Krohse, Natalie Krohse, Josie McGraw and sophomore Brook Breault.



.Front: Natalie Krohse, Mia Lapp, Marie Candler, Claire Willett, Carlyn McGraw, Josie McGraw, Taryn Moore, Sydnee DeBrower, Kaitlyn Krohse. Back Row: Zoe Steen, Bella Lebeda, Hallie Portwood, Jiliana Burds, Bree McCusker, Mya Heather, Jazzy Carter, Izzbell Buhs, Lyni Gusick.

## **ALBURNETT BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW**

#### **BY TODD HUNT** sports@linn-news.com

Head Coach Jeff Christopherson who is in his 30th year at the helm of the Pirates a 1st team all-conference and about the upcoming season with two returning starters in Matthew Neighbor and Rylan Rosek, along with six returning lettermen.

"We have a nice group of students/athletes to work with this year. We will continue to make defense a priority. Alburnett finished last season with an overall record

ence).

is coming off an impressive 23-24 season where he was boys team is very optimistic a member of the Sub-State team averaging 14.6 ppg with 7.1 rpg. Rylen Rosek averaged 4.5 ppg and 3.1 rpg last season.

They both will be joined by a solid group of senior heavy returners in Josiah teams, but he feels that this Steen (4.2ppg/2.8rpg), Laken Caves (2.7ppg/1.7rpg), Jett Beuckers, Zander Obert and Taytum Hayward. Junior re-

of 19-4 (12-2 in the confer- turning guard Caiden Beuckers will make an immediate Senior Matthew Neighbor impact this season. Look for newcomer Hayden Gustafson to help provide some depth in the forward position as well.

> Christopherson knows that until someone knocks off North Linn, they will remain the favorite to win the TRC. Springville and Maquoketa Valley will also boast solid year's team should be in contention for a conference title with the experience returning this season.



Front Row (L to R): Kinnick Wilhelm, Taytum Hayward, Caiden Bueckers, Brody Kaestner, and Laken Caves. Back Row: Rylen Rozek, Zach Krigbaum, Matthew Neighbor, Hayden Gustafson and Josiah Steen. Missing Zander Obert.

### **Central City Wildcats**



## **CENTRAL CITY BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW**

### **BY TODD HUNT** sports@linn-news.com

The Central City boys basketball team will bring back a wealth of experience with three returning starters that include two-time all-conference honoree senior Matthew with freshmen Jason Rose of working hard to achieve at what we lost in height we Klostermann. Klostermann who earned a starting posi- a high level." averaged 17.5ppg, 3.8aspg

"We have a group of athletes that have competed and won at a high level," second additional returning letteryear head coach Ryan Turner said. "Experiencing success is a product of continued work that they have put in."

tion as an eighth grader last

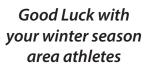
Wildcats returning starters. They will bring back five men in seniors Nolan Gates, Kaleb Walker and junior Colton Welton.

"I have a lot of faith that Senior Max Arthur along each of these kids are capable we are relatively short, but

Losing Mekhi Benton and and quickness," said coach

tion numbers is hard to replace. They also lost Daiton Price and Castor Abernathy who both made significant contributions on the court for the Wildcats.

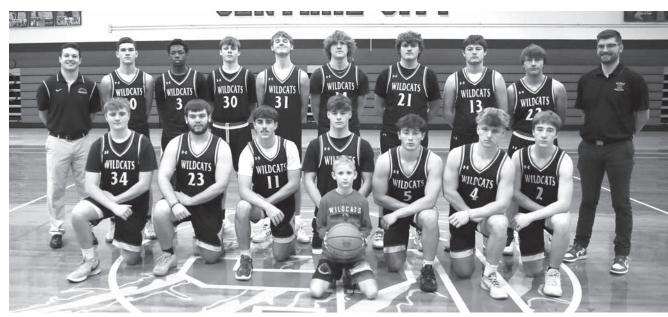
"Outside of those losses, make up for in work ethic







and 4.8rpg last season. season will be the other two Aiden Klostermann produc- Turner.



Front row (L to R): Colton Welton, Braxton Davis, Max Arthur, Matthew Klostermann, (front: James Liscumb), Nolan Gates, Josh Lindsey, Cooper Mc-Laughlin. Back row: Head Coach Turner, Jase Stecher, Dashny Munyakazi, Trevan Reinhart, Hayden DeLong, Jason Rose, Kaleb Walker, Chris Hanson, Maddex Marrah, Assistant Coach Berger.

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