

ALBURNETT GIRLS WRESTLING PREVIEW

BY TODD HUNT
sports@linn-news.com

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 Morte. “

This year’s Alburnett girls’ team is young with five juniors, three sophomores and five freshmen. With the increase in numbers this season, coach Morte 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 Morte.

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 boys team is very optimistic 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

of 19-4 (12-2 in the conference).

Senior Matthew Neighbor is coming off an impressive 23-24 season where he was a 1st team all-conference and a member of the Sub-State team averaging 14.6 ppg with 7.1 rpg. Rylan 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 Steen (4.2ppg/2.8rpg), Laken Caves (2.7ppg/1.7rpg), Jett Beuckers, Zander Obert and Taytum Hayward. Junior re-

turning guard Caiden Beuckers will make an immediate 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 teams, but he feels that this 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: Rylan 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 Klostermann. Klostermann averaged 17.5ppg, 3.8aspg and 4.8rpg last season.

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

Senior Max Arthur along with freshmen Jason Rose who earned a starting position as an eighth grader last season will be the other two

Wildcats returning starters.

They will bring back five additional returning lettermen in seniors Nolan Gates, Kaleb Walker and junior Colton Welton.

“I have a lot of faith that each of these kids are capable of working hard to achieve at a high level.”

Losing Mekhi Benton and Aiden Klostermann produc-

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, we are relatively short, but what we lost in height we make up for in work ethic and quickness,” said coach Turner.



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

Good Luck with your winter season area athletes

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