

SPORTS

Northwest Iowa Community College hires first women’s volleyball coach

Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon has hired Mark Kirlin as the College’s first-ever head women’s volleyball coach, marking a historic milestone as NCC continues to expand collegiate athletics and student opportunities.

The NCC Thunder women’s volleyball program will begin competition in its inaugural season in fall 2026.

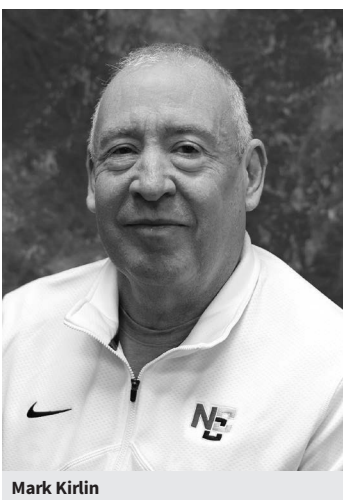
Kirlin brings more than 22 years of volleyball coaching experience and has coached athletes at a variety of levels, including high school and club volleyball.

ball. His coaching background includes Roncalli Catholic High School (Omaha, Nebraska), Pawnee City High School (Pawnee City, Nebraska), and the club volleyball level with Action Motion Volleyball Club (now known as Nebraska Power). He has also remained active in the sport as a volleyball official, giving him a well-rounded understanding of the game and player development.

In addition, Kirlin has earned volleyball-specific training and certifications through organizations such as USA Volleyball and the American Volleyball Coach-

es Association (AVCA). He is also completing a master’s degree in coaching and administration and is expected to graduate in February 2026, strengthening his foundation in leadership, program development and student-athlete success.

“We are excited to welcome Coach Kirlin to NCC as we prepare for the launch of women’s volleyball,” said Eric Francis, athletic director. “This is a significant step forward for Thunder Athletics, and we look forward to building a strong foundation for student-athletes as we move toward our first season of competition.”



SIoux CENTRAL SPORTS

SIoux CENTRAL BOYS WIN AT ALTA-AURELIA

Sioux Central broke an 11-11 tie at the end of the first quarter and rolled to a 63-37 defeat of Alta-Aurelia in boys basketball action Tuesday night in Sioux Rapids.

The Rebels broke away in the second period, building a 32-20 halftime lead that grew to 44-29 by the end of three periods.

“We really struggled to shoot it tonight from the perimeter, so I thought our guys did a good job adjusting and attacking points in the paint,” coach Adam Ehlers said. “We shared it well and gave great defensive effort.”

Owen Mills led Sioux Central in with 18 points on 7-of-14 shooting, grabbed a team-high 6 rebounds, dished a team-high eight assists and had a team-high four steals. Jack Christian had 14 points, five assists, three steals and two blocked shots. Colin Christians had 12 points on 6-of-8 shooting, five rebounds and three blocks. Koen Glover had 6 points, Boden Bright and Parker Spooner each had 3 points and Chase Heuton added 1 point.

Sioux Central was 5-22 from 3-point range, but made 19 of its 33 2-point attempts and went 10 of 16 from the line. The Rebels committed just seven turnovers while forcing 18 from A-A, which shot 32% from the field.

The win pushed Sioux Central to 7-1 in the conference and 12-2 overall. The Warriors fell to 4-11 overall and 3-5 in league play.

SIoux CENTRAL BOYS GO 1-2 AT GRAETTINGER

Bryce Gunderson, Gavin Casey and Kooper Bean won all three of their matches, and the Sioux Central boys wrestling team went 1-2 at a triple dual meet at Graettinger on Monday.

Sioux Central fell to Alta, 51-21; fell to host GTRA, 58-21; and then won on a tie-breaker with MMC/RU after the teams tied at 36 points each.

Coach Chance Rice said the team wrestled very well, but struggled against full teams since the Rebels were missing five starters. He said he was proud of the team’s fight.

Gunderson at 126 pounds, Casey at 165 and Bean at 285 led the way. Spencer Forbes won his only match at 150 pounds. Reid Anderson at 190 pounds went 1-1, and Vincent Hardin at 113 went 1-2.

SIoux CENTRAL BOYS GET 2 MAT WINS, LOSS

Sioux Central traveled to Rockwell City Tuesday night to wrestle a trio of conference foes and came away with two wins and a loss.

The Rebels beat West Bend-Mallard, 54-24, and East Sac County, 59-14, but fell to the host school, South Central Calhoun, 46-30.

Coach Chance Rice said it was a good day of wrestling, and the team battled with another ranked team. He said he was “very proud of the team — fought hard and competed.”

Noah Garcia at 138 pounds, Xander Waldstein at 150 pounds and Connor Brown at 175/190 pounds, all went 3-0 in their matches. Keton Hoigrefe at 113 was 1-0.

Going 2-1 were Bryce Gunderson at 126, Brandon Zeledon at 132, Hunter Res at 157, Gavin Casey at 165 and Reid Anderson at 190/215.

Finishing 1-1 were Dalten Kreibaum at 175, Hunter Perry at 215 and Kooper Bean at 285. Spencer Forbes was 1-2 at 144.

ALTA-AURELIA RALLIES TO BEAT REBELS 61-57

Sioux Central led 18-6 after the first quarter, and 41-38 after three quarters, but Alta-Aurelia rallied and beat the Rebels, 61-57, in Sioux Rapids in Twin Lakes Conference girls basketball Tuesday night.

“Alta-Aurelia did a nice job of moving the ball and making shots,” coach Kasey Krager said. “We didn’t do a good job of playing defense. Everything is correctable so we’ll have to be disciplined and find some answers. We still have lots to play for so we’ll need to play for each other and get better.”

The Rebels were plagued by poor shooting, going 4 of 26 from 3-point range and 15-40 from 2-point range for a combined 29%. The Rebels also had one player foul out and three others finished with four fouls.

Avery Wilson led the Rebels with 26 points and 12 rebounds. Matilyn Trierweiler had 15 points. Sage Weber had 4 points and six rebounds. Brogan Johannsen had 3 points and three steals. Lindsay

Peck had 3 points. Marly Madsen had 2 points and four steals. Nora Christian had 2 points and Ava McCarty had 2 points.

Sioux Central is 5-3 in conference play and 12-4 overall, and plays at East Sac County (5-3 TLC, 8-8 overall) on Friday. Alta-Aurelia improved to 8-9 overall and 5-3 in conference play.

REBELS TAKE ADVANTAGE AT FOUL LINE, OVERTAKE TITANS IN SECOND HALF

Sioux Central and South Central Calhoun were knotted at 25 each at the half, but the Rebels built a 5-point lead through the end of the third quarter and then blasted the Titans with a 27-8 fourth quarter advantage to claim a 73-49 girls basketball win at home Monday.

“We need to figure out a way to start a little faster, but I was happy with how the team finished,” coach Kasey Krager said. “We were able to attack their zone defense and got to the free throw line a lot. The kids did a good job of getting offensive rebounds and the activity on the press in the fourth quarter was key for us.”

Avery Wilson made 20-of-22 free throws and scored 30 points to lead the Rebels. As a team, the Rebels were just shy of 80% from the line, going 27-34.

Wilson added 17 rebounds, three assists and four steals. Matilyn Trierweiler scored 12 points; Marley Madsen had 11 points and nine steals; Sage Weber had 10 points and five steals; Lindsay Peck had 6 points; Ava McCarty had 2 points; Caitlin Wildeman had 2 points; though she didn’t score, Nora Christian had five rebounds and three assists.

The Rebels (5-2 TLC, 12-3 overall) shot 35% from the field and 23% from 3-point range. They owned a 38-20 advantage on the boards, and had 19 steals and forced 27 turnovers. The Rebels had 16 turnovers, 12 of them on steals by SCC.

Blair Schleisman led the Titans (1-6 TLC, 4-12 overall) with 22 points, going 6 of 12 on 3-pointers.

REBEL GIRLS SECOND AT EAST SAC

Sioux Central’s girls wrestling team finished second in the 11-team East Sac Invite on Monday.

The Rebels scored 154.5 points, topped only by Carroll Kuemper Catholic with 169. Carroll was third with 141, followed by South Central Calhoun with 114, Manson-NW Webster and Ridge View with 93 each, Okoboji with 74, Spirit Lake with 53, Eagle Grove with 50, Woodbury Central with 29.5 and East Sac with 24.

The Rebels didn’t have any champions, but six finished as runners-up: Lexi Jones at 105 pounds, April Banda at 120, Nichole Hart at 125, Nataley Frerk at 130, Sigrid Adams at 135 and Hannah Weber at 155. Remi Pillars was third at 115, Angel Frederick at 170 was fourth, Ashley Alvarado was fifth at 100, and Jessa Prins went 1-2 but did not place.

Coach Joel McCoy said that overall, he was happy with the way the team competed.

“Good way to finish the regular season as team runner ups behind a really good Kuemper squad,” he said. “Getting six girls into the finals is a good deal. Overall, we pretty much wrestled to our seed. I think we showed some things tonight that we are closing a few gaps where we need to. I look at Sigrid’s and Nataley’s finals matches when thinking of this. The finals were very competitive, and we had the opportunity to wrestle some outstanding girls. Three more days of work and then it is go time Friday for the regional.”

REBELS START FAST, ROLL PAST SCC

Sioux Central grabbed a 32-16 halftime lead and rolled to a 59-40 win over South Central Calhoun on Monday.

“I am happy with the start we got off to,” coach Adam Ehlers said. “We came out fast, and were active defensively. We took care of the ball offensively and shared it really well, assisting on 17 of the 22 field goals. Happy with the start of a big, three-conference-game week.”

Jack Christian scored 20 points to lead the Rebels. Koen Glover had 14 points. Colin Christians had 13 points, five rebounds, five steals and five blocked shots. Owen Mills had 12 points, five rebounds, six assists and five steals.

The Rebels improved to 11-2 overall and 6-1 in the Twin Lakes Conference, and the Titans dropped to 7-8 overall and 3-4 in the league.

By the numbers: Girls high school basketball participation down at least 21% since 2000

(AP) — The number of girls high school basketball players in the United States has dropped at least 21% since 2000 based on National Federation of State High School Associations’ annual participation surveys.

The federation, which relies on individual schools to self-report numbers for each sport, said girls high school basketball participation declined from 451,600 at 16,526 responding schools in 2000 to 356,240 at 18,208 responding schools in 2025.

Not every school reports figures each year and the data is not perfect but National Sporting Goods Association’s annual surveys generally corroborate the federation survey and indicate a far greater decrease: The NSGA said overall basketball participation for girls ages 12-17 dropped from 3.1 million in 2001 to 1.7 million in 2024, a 45% decline.

The federation survey showed increased participation in girls basketball in nine states since 2000, though it may not be that many. Florida, for example, gained 559 players but had 235 more schools report in 2025 than in 2000. Arizona gained 214 players but had 78 more schools report.

Mississippi showed an increase of 2,819 players since 2000 with 25 fewer schools reporting. Rickey Neaves, the executive director of the state activities association, backed up the numbers and attributed the growth to the improvement of women’s college basketball. Mississippi the past three decades and cooperation between AAU volleyball and high school basketball coaches.

The biggest declines according to the NFSHSA surveys:

- Kansas (43%):** 5,788 players at 337 schools in 2024-25; 10,120 at 350 schools in 1999-2000.
- Louisiana (42%):** 5,486 players at 391 schools in 2024-25; 9,400 at 376 schools in 1999-2000.
- North Dakota (40%):** 1,992 players at 160 players in 2024-25; 3,354 at 157 schools in 1999-2000.
- Indiana (39%):** 7,017 players at 394 schools in 2024-25; 11,499 at 381 schools in 1999-2000.
- Iowa (38%):** 5,856 players at 340 schools in 2024-25; 9,401 at 397 schools in 1999-2000.
- Texas (36%):** 44,953 players at 1,373 schools in 2024-25; 70,427 at 1,175 schools in 1999-2000.
- Michigan (34%):** 13,068 players at 689 schools in 2024-25; 19,760 at 705 schools in 1999-2000.

LAKER BRIEF

LAKER ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES ANNOUNCED

The 2026 Laker Athletics Hall of Fame banquet is Saturday, Feb. 7, at 9:30 a.m. in the Janice K. Lund Performing Arts Center on the Estherville campus of Iowa Lakes. The event is open to the public. Anyone who would like to meet the inductees of the Laker Athletics Hall of Fame and share in the memories of the past are encouraged to attend. Banquet tickets may be purchased for \$25. Brunch will be served. Contact Sarah Stokes at 712-362-7907 or by email at slstokes@iowalakes.edu. The awards are presented annually to outstanding Lakers by the Alumni & Friends Association. Each honoree will receive a plaque. The 2026 inductees into the Laker Athletics Hall of Fame are: Mia Mi (2010-12) volleyball; James Creech, MD, special contributor; and the 2010 volleyball team — Kellisha (Harvey) Famuyiwa, Lizzie Thelin, Mia Mi, Amy (Novak) Tjepkes, Kelsie Johnson, Wendy Coffin, Cayla Vimr, Jamie Stewart, Danika Stindtman, Xiao Liang, Jade Black, Sunying Ling and coach Scott Tschetter.

LEGAL

Spencer CSD Johnson Elementary School
January, 2026
Fire Sprinkler Installation
Spencer, Iowa
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
To Whom It May Concern:
The Spencer Community School District shall hold a public hearing on the proposed plans, specifications, proposed form of contract and the estimated cost of said improvements. At said hearing any interested person may appear and file objections to the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract or estimated cost of said improvements.
Project Identification: Spencer Community School District Johnson Elementary School Fire Sprinkler Installation
Project Location: 724 W. 9th Street, Spencer, IA 51301
Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026. Hearing to take place at 5:00 p.m.
Hearing Location: Spencer Community School District Central Office Board Room, 23 E. 7th Street, Spencer, IA 51301
Published upon order of the Spencer Community School District
#034

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LEGAL

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S
LEVY AND SALE
IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT OF
CLAY COUNTY
EQUITY NO: EQCV036922
CIVIL NO: 25-001053
ORIGINAL NOTICE FOR
PUBLICATION
CARRINGTON MORTGAGE
SERVICES, LLC
Plaintiff,
vs.
GARY J. MERRILL; COMMISSIONER OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; STATE OF IOWA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE, IF ANY, OF GARY J. MERRILL; PARTIES IN POSSESSION
Defendants.

As a result of the judgement rendered in the above referenced court case, an execution was issued by the court to the Sheriff of the county. The execution ordered the sale of defendant (s) Real Estate described below:
A TRACT OF LAND IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (NE1/4 SE1/4) OF SECTION TWENTY-TWO (22), TOWNSHIP NINETY-FOUR (94) NORTH, RANGE THIRTY-FIVE (35) WEST OF THE FIFTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 94 NORTH, RANGE 35 WEST OF THE FIFTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, WHICH POINT OF BEGINNING LIES NORTH 0 DEGREES 00' EAST (NORTH 0 DEGREES 00 MINUTES EAST) A DISTANCE OF ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-TWO AND THREE TENTHS (1,742.3) FEET FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 22 AND RUNNING FROM THAT POINT OF BEGINNING NORTH 90 DEGREES 00' WEST A DISTANCE OF THREE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN AND FOUR TENTHS (317.4) FEET; THENCE NORTH 0 DEGREES 25' EAST A DISTANCE OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE (351.0) FEET; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 45' EAST A DISTANCE OF THREE HUNDRED FOURTEEN AND NINE TENTHS (314.9) FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 22;

THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 00' EAST ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 22 A DISTANCE OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVEN AND NINE TENTHS (357.9) FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. ALL BEARINGS STATED IN THIS DESCRIPTION ARE BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE EAST LINE OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 22 IS A TRUE NORTH TO SOUTH LINE. THE EAST THIRTY-THREE (33.0) FEET TO THE TRACT DESCRIBED HEREIN IS OCCUPIED BY PUBLIC ROAD AND IS USED FOR PUBLIC ROAD PURPOSES. THE AREA OF THE TRACT BOUNDED BY THE DESCRIPTION GIVEN HEREIN IS 2.572 ACRES INCLUDING 0.271 ACRES OF ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY ON THE EAST THIRTY-THREE (33.0) FEET THEREOF. Street Address: 4865 320th Ave., Webb, IA 51366.
Property address: 4865 320th Ave., Webb, IA 51366
The described property will be offered for sale at public auction for cash only as follows:
Sale Date: 2/25/2026
Sale Time: 10:30 a.m.
Place of Sale: CLAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, 3115 W 4TH ST., SPENCER, IA 51301
This sale is not subject to Redemption.
Property exemption: Certain money or property may be exempt. Contact your attorney promptly to review specific provisions of the law and file appropriate notice, if acceptable.
Judgment Amount: \$38,738.50
Costs: \$10,601.44
Accruing Costs: PLUS
Interest: \$17,756.23
Sheriff's Fees: Pending
Date: 12/23/25
/s/ CHRISTOPHER L. RAVELING
CLAY COUNTY SHERIFF
Attorney:
RICHARD REINBLATT
10855 W DODGE RD STE 250
OMAHA, NE 68154
(402) 342-4644
Date of second publication: 1/30/26
#001

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LEGAL

Notice of Sheriff's Levy and Sale
IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN
AND FOR CLAY COUNTY

State of Iowa, Clay County
Iowa District Court, Clay County

Case #: EQCV036852
Civil #: 25-001027

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE, LLC
V.
WILLIAM JOHN SUTTON, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES E. SUTTON, DECEASED, WILLIAM JOHN SUTTON, LYNN MARIE BOYER, CHERYL ANN SUTTON, STATE OF IOWA, IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND FINANCE AND STATE OF IOWA, IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Special Execution

As a result of the judgement rendered in the above referenced court case, an execution was issued by the court to the Sheriff of this county. The execution ordered the sale of defendant (s) Real Estate described below:

To satisfy the judgement. The Property to be sold is: Lot Fifteen (15) and the East Half (E 1/2) of Lot Fourteen (14), Block Thirteen (13), of the Original Plat of the Town of Royal, Clay County, Iowa.

Street Address: 308 LONG ST., ROYAL, IA 51357

The described property will be offered for

sale at public auction for cash only as follows:

Sale Date: 2/25/2026
Sale Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place of Sale: CLAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, 3115 W 4TH ST., SPENCER, IA 51301

This sale is not subject to Redemption.
Property exemption: Certain money or property may be exempt. Contact your attorney promptly to review specific provisions of the law and file appropriate notice, if acceptable.

Judgment Amount: \$12,214.64
Costs: \$4,841.84
Accruing Costs: PLUS
Interest: \$536.96
Sheriff's Fees: Pending

Date: 12/26/25
/s/ CHRISTOPHER L. RAVELING
CLAY COUNTY SHERIFF

Attorney:
BENJAMIN W. HOPKINS
1350 NW 138TH ST., STE 100
CLIVE, IA 50325
(515) 222-9400

Date of second publication: 1/30/26
#002

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