

The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

Volleyball team returns some key players

The volleyball team returns some familiar faces, and they're hoping to improve upon last year's third-place conference finish.

Second-year head coach Morgan Nefzger said she is impressed with their positive mindset: "We are young and have big goals. They have been working hard this summer and have played against some big schools to prepare for conference play. We have some new faces on our varsity floor this year and our veteran players have done a great job welcoming them to a higher level play. We are excited for what this season has in store."

The team returns some heavy hitters: Grace Richter and Lanni Beaman as outside hitters and middle hitter Camryn Paris. Senior Lili Bauers, who earned

all-conference honors last year, will return as libero.

These players along with the new ones have worked hard to become a team. "Our team has good chemistry and they work really well together," stated Coach Nefzger. "We are quick and are doing a really good job utilizing everyone that is on the floor no matter what spot in the rotation. We are young and eager to be successful."

Nefzger is assisted by MV grads and now MV teachers Mikayla Callan and Madison Imler.

Coach Nefzger predicts Ed-Co, Springville and Central City will be some tough opponents this year.

The team opens its season at a quad at Wapsie Valley on Tuesday, Aug. 27.



Seniors Lili Bauers and Kelsey Hoeger

Cheer team looks to build on tradition of school spirit

The cheer team is gearing up for an exciting season.

They team has been practicing in the early morning under the guidance of Coach Teymer since June 25. "It's been an interesting summer because several of the girls had unique opportunities to travel for extended periods of time. Although they were not with us in person, you could tell they were practicing on their own. We graduated five last year and added two new faces this year, so this seemed like a good year to start adding new cheers into the rotation. Many of the favorites that have been around since MV cheer came back four year ago are there. But we are excited for fun new chants and cheers to get added to our cheer catalog."

MV alumna Leah Ries who cheers at Upper Iowa University held a stunning clinic with the girls. "We had a few bumps, bruises and bleeders, but that is to be expected when throwing full-grown humans in the air," noted Coach Teymer.

The team has continued its tradition of service and have done several hours of community service face painting throughout the area.

Despite all of the practices and team bonding, the team has faced on dilemma to start the season, according to Coach Teymer: "The only real stress we've had

is over our new uniforms. Unfortunately, the company sent us 20 size XS tops. That was disappointing. But, they are sending us tops to wear till they remake the other ones. Things happen, and we are not mad. We were just so excited for the new ones. So at some point in the season, we look forward to debuting our new uniforms."

As the team gets ready to show off its work from this summer tonight at the football scrimmage, the crowd will most likely notice what Coach Teymer does about this team: "This is a very energetic and enjoyable group—those characteristics are definitely needed when cheerleading. They are a fearless group. From stunting to tumbling, they are not afraid to be silly."

The team is led by Isabella Mensen and Clairra Gray, both four-year members. Keely Recker is the team's only junior. Sophomores include Natalie Ries, Jeanie Teymer, Ella Reicher, Tess Intorf, Lena Lewin, Ever Botos and Tristen Flannagan.

The two new members are Taylor Salow and Lylah Billmeyer. "These two have adapted nicely into our little cheer family," stated Coach Teymer. They both have so many strengths and have fit right in."

Aside from cheering at the football games, the team will also dance at the last two home games with the marching band. Clairra Gray has choreographed a great rou-



Seniors on the cheer team are Isabella Mensen and Clairra Gray.

tine full of ripple effects. They will also have a kids cheer clinic later in the season. The team also plays a vital role in preparing for the homecoming pep rally.

Coach Teymer added, "I would really like to thank the Athletic Boosters for their continued support. I really appreciate all their efforts, dedication and inclusion."

Football team under new direction, new senior leadership

MV football welcomes a new head coach this year, Andrew Christensen, and he has a good feeling about this team.

"I feel like our strength will be at our skilled positions as there is a bunch of returning production from kids who played a lot of football over the last two years," stated Coach Christensen.

Returning key players include seniors Nathan Beitz (OL/DL) and Tate Intorf (WR/DB) along with juniors Brady Wall (QB/DB), Anderson Holtz (WR/LB), Colin Smith (WR/DB), Preston Salow (OL/DL), Dylan Knipper (RB/LB) and Lucas Chesnut (WR/LB). Sophomore Giffin Honkomp (OL/DL) rounds out the players with extensive experience from last year.

Coach Christensen said that the team needs to replace some integral players from last year including Lance McShane who is playing at ISU and Aidan Salow on the UNI team. "I would say that building some depth especially along the lines will key to our overall success."

Some of that success could come from some players whom Coach Christensen noted as up-and-coming players: senior Arion Rave (who has converted from a state cross country runner to play receiver and defensive back), juniors Ford Domeyer (OL/DL), Kash Hunt (WR/LB) and sophomores Eli Dougherty (WR/DB), Kyle Engelken (RB/LB), Rogan Heidt (RB/LB), Gabe Halweg (OL/DL) and Seth Dugan (OL/DL).

Coach Christensen noted that district will be pretty even with five team competing for the title. "On paper Starmont is probably the favorite with what they return from a title team, but I feel like East Buc,



Seniors on the football team include Tate Intorf, Nathan Beitz and Arion Rave.

North Linn, Bellevue and MV will all be very solid."

MV opens its season tonight at home in a scrimmage against Sumner-Fredricksburg, who is coached by MV alumnus Jacob Coyle.

Assistant coaches are Jon Orr, Andy Schuster, Kurt Hatfield, Brad Tucker, Aaron Saeugling, Dan Beitz and Matt Wall.

Cross country teams look to build on combo of experience and new faces

Coach Kirchoff returns for his second year as head coach of the boys and girls cross country teams, and while this season will look different from last year, there's an air of excitement.

This year's team will be led by senior Matthew Schaul (top-ranked in pre-season) and junior Kenyon Baker who were part of last year's team that finished first in the conference and 12th at state.

"This team looks to continue the success of last year's team," stated Coach Kirchoff. "We are returning three members of last year's state qualifying team (Matthew Schaul, Kenyon Baker and Brady Eike). These three are great leaders and have done a great job continuing a tradition of success in the program. We have added a few younger members to the team who will have great role models to show them what hard work can turn into. I'm excited to watch this team grow as the season progresses."

Coach Kirchoff recognized that the biggest challenge for the team this season is the lack of experienced runners: "We only have three upperclassmen on this year's team. We will have a lot of young guys who will have to adjust to the 5K race."

Coach Kirchoff's early prediction for the team is a top-five place at the conference meet.

The girls team has started the season with an influx of newcomers who will support MV's top finisher from last year, junior Taryn Burbridge who placed fourth at conference, sixth at districts and 14th at



Cross country seniors are, front row: McKenna Bush, Jordan Hatfield, Jada Knipper and Bianca Ronnebaum; back row: Alexis Halverson, Brady Eike, Matthew Schaul and Leah Reicher.

state. Some top newcomers include freshmen Audra Burbridge who was last year's junior high conference champion and Breanna Bush who placed ninth in last year's junior high conference meet.

This year the team will have 12 high school girls out for cross country which doubles the amount on the team from last year. The team has three letter winners returning from last year's team (Tayrn Burbridge, McKenna Bush and Haydin Flannagan). The rest of the team will be made up of freshmen or girls going out for cross country for the first time.

"I can tell you this is a fun group who brings great energy every day," noted Coach Kirchoff. "The strength of this year's team is depth. Having more girls out will help create some friendly competition ev-

ery single day."

The biggest challenge this team will face is lack of experience. Nine of the athletes have never run in a high school cross country meet.

Despite the inexperience of the runners in a 5K, Coach Kirchoff has high hopes for this team. "I believe we have the talent to win the conference meet this season. We will need some new faces to step up. With so many new members I'm excited to watch the growth from beginning to end of the season."

The boys and girls team will open their season Tuesday, Aug. 27 at the Ed-Co Invitational at Woods Edge Golf Course.

Coach Kirchoff is assisted by Coach Dunlap.