

The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

Pre-season look at fall Wildcat athletics

Cheer

Spirit abounds with this year's cheer team, or more accurately, teams.

A JV team has been added to cheer at the JV football games this fall.

Coach Teymer explained that all girls that are ready will cheer at home varsity football games. Varsity only will travel to away varsity football games. The JV team ("our littles," according to Coach Teymer) will cheer at home JV games.

The varsity team returns all but two athletes. Returners include senior Keely Recker, juniors Natalie Ries, Jeanie Teymer, Lena Lewin, Tess Intorf, Tristen Flanagan, Ever Botos and sophomores Taylor Salow and Lylah Billmeyer.

Newcomers are junior Cheyenne Eike and freshman Alaina Connolly.

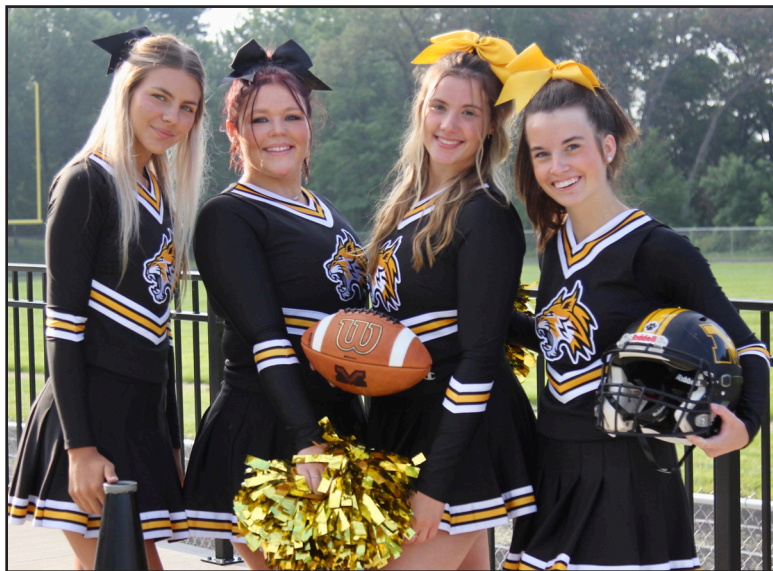
The all-new JV team is made up of junior Jordyn Koch, sophomore Aaliyah Peterson and freshmen Ava Holtz, Maggie Recker, Maleah Freiburger, Athena Bradley and Ella Recker.

The team's season started this summer and mostly has focused on streamlining cheers/chants.

Each of the "littles" underclassman (or someone new) were paired with a "big" upperclassman on the team to serve as a mentor. "I put a lot of thought into these pairings," stated Coach Teymer. "It makes me so pleased that so many have formed real relationships with their Littles."

The team has four captains (Keely, Natalie, Jeanie and Lena) this year. "They have all really stepped up to take on teaching technique, jumps, cheers, chants & admin responsibilities," added Coach Teymer. "The captains planned a couple of themed practices this year. One of which was a squirt gun practice. The captains sprayed teammates, as well as each other if mistakes were made. Everyone nailed it walking away, practically dry."

The team is prepping now for homecoming and dancing with the marching band later this season.



Cheer captains this year are Keely Recker, Lena Lewin, Jeanie Teymer and Natalie Ries.

Football

The pre-season ratings are giving the Wildcats some nods. The Gazette pre-season poll put Maquoketa Valley and St. Ansgar at the top of the Class A race. MV finished 9-2 last year while St. Ansgar was 10-2.

Coach Christensen returns for his second year as head coach at MV which finished 7-0 in the district last year.

Turning with him are some key players:

- Brady Wall: QB/DB 1st Team All District QB, District Offensive MVP
- Rogan Heidt: RB/LB 1st Team All District RB, 2nd Team All State RB
- Dylan Knipper: WR/LB 1st Team All District LB, 2nd Team All State LB
- Eli Dougherty: WR/DB 1st Team All District DB
- Anderson Holtz: WR/DB 1st Team All District DB
- Ford Domeyer: OL/DL 2nd Team All District OL
- Preston Salow: OL/DL 1st Team All District OL
- Seth Dugan: OL/DL Honorable Mention All District OL
- Griffin Honkomp: OL/DL 2nd Team All District OL
- Lukas Chesnut: OL/DL 1st Team All Dis-

trict DL

-Gabe Hallweg: OL/DL 2nd Team All District DL

-Dalton Africa: OL/DL 2nd Team All District DL

-Kyle Engelken: OL/LB 1st Team All District LB

-Colin Smith: WR/DB Honorable Mention All District DB

Other returning letter winners include Kash Hunt WR/DB, Macoy Stone WR/DB, Chase Krogmann OL/DL, Kipton Thompson WR/LB, Dashawn Strickland RB/DB, Carter LeClere WR/DB

Coach Christensen noted some promising newcomers: Sawyer Kemp OL/DL/LB and Tyler Beitz OL/DL.

Coach Christensen sees many strengths in his team: "I would say that our biggest strength is our experience, we only lost two starters off of last year's quarterfinal team. Many of our seniors are in their 3rd or 4th year of starting. I also feel that we have around 25 kids who are going to see time during the varsity game which is a luxury for us this year at the Class A level."

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Football, continued

This team has a loss which could also be looked at as a gain. 2025 grad Nathan Beitz was an All State lineman for MV last year. He “will be a big loss up front for us; how the lineman fill in for his absence will be key to our success,” added Coach Christensen. “We have the guys to do it, but finding the correct combination will be key.”

The gain? Beitz now joins the team as a coach, even while he takes classes at Kirkwood.

So who is expected to give MV a challenge in the district? “I expect Wapsie Valley, North Linn, and us to be the main challengers for the district crown,” noted Coach Christensen. “East Buc was young last year and I think they will be improved. East Marshall is a bit of an unknown but I think they could also contend for a playoff spot.”

The Wildcats had a scrimmage with Monticello last Friday and will travel to Starmont Friday night.

Volleyball

There’s a new yet familiar face leading the varsity volleyball team this year. MV alumna and former JV coach Mikayla Callan takes over head coaching duties from Morgan Manternach. Coach Callan is assisted by Madison Imler and Tiffany Leytem.

We sometimes see turnovers in coaching when “the cupboard is bare,” but that’s far from the truth for MV. Callan inherits some highly experienced players, including senior outside hitters Lanni Beaman (first team all-conference) and Grace Richter (second team all-conference) and junior middle hitter Camryn Paris (second team all-conference).

“We are an experienced team that has spent a lot of time playing together,” noted Coach Callan. “This summer we have been putting in a lot of work and I can’t wait to see it pay off. The girls have big goals and want to finish at the top of the conference. This summer we traveled to Kirkwood camp and that was a great opportunity for some of our new members to get a chance to play with the team. While we were there, the girls picked up right where we left off last year and things went very smoothly.

She added that one of the strengths of the team is leadership: “We have five seniors on the team this year that have really stepped up.

“The team is good at picking each



The varsity team along with the coaches. (photo courtesy of Nancy Lubben)

other up after a mistake. There is always room for improvement in general areas like serve receive, and blocking. We will continue to improve these skills as the season progresses.”

Last night, the Wildcats hosted a quad. They fell 2-0 to North Tama and fell 2-1 against Wapsie Valley. They also played Gladbrook-Reinbeck but no results were posted by press time. An exciting part of last night’s event was Grace Richter earning her 500th kill.

The team travels to Jesup Thursday night and plays in the Cascade tournament Saturday. Callan’s aunt, Mary Frake, is the head coach at Cascade.

Cross country

The cross country team enjoyed some success last year, including having two boys qualify for state and the girls team winning the state-qualifying meet to head to Fort Dodge. That memory motivates many of the returning athletes.

Returners on the girls state team include senior Taryn Burbridge and sophomores Audra Burbridge and Breanna Bush. Others on the team this year include junior Haydin Flannagan, sophomore Rylee Reed and freshmen Anna Feldmann, Kourtney Hatfield and Jena Hoefer.

The boys team will be led by returning state qualifier senior Kenyon Baker. Others on the team are junior Shane Wright, junior Jayden Schwandt, sophomores Gabriel Saunders and Owen Smith and freshman Colt Haas.

The teams opened their season last night at Woods Edge Golf Course, hosted by Ed-Co. The girls finished fifth out of

eight teams, and the boys finished eighth out of ten. Finishes:

Audra Burbridge, 8th, 21:31; Taryn Burbridge, 20, 22:40; Anna Feldmann, 41, 24:19; Breanna Bush, 43, 24:29; Rylee Reed, 77, 28:42; Kourtney Hatfield, 81, 29:23; Haydin Flannagan, 86, 30:12; Jena Hoefer, 95, 33:30

Kenyon Baker, 11th, 18:15; Owen Smith, 20, 19:06; Jayden Schwandt, 70, 21:57; Colt Haas, 100, 24:34; Shane Wright, 104, 25:58; Gabriel Saunders, 111, 26:57.

The team will next compete Tuesday at Oelwein.

All-Conference Baseball

Brady Wall: 1st Team Pitcher
Dylan Knipper: 2nd Team Outfield
Kenyon Baker: 2nd Team Utility
Matthew Schaul: Honorable Mention

All-Conference Softball

Kallie Freiburger: 1st Team Pitcher
Audra Burbridge: 1st Team Infield
Jada Knipper: 1st Team Utility
Addison Vorward: 2nd Team Catcher
Lannie Beaman: 2nd Team Infield
Jordan Hatfield: Honorable Mention