

# The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

## Winter sports teams gear up for exciting season

### Boys basketball

The boys basketball team is coming off of a 16-7 season last year and looks to rely on experience to make their mark.

Returning to coach the team are head coach Eric Conner and assistant coach Shane Kirchoff.

Returning starters on the team include seniors Brady Wall (Unanimous 1st Team All TRC West, 2nd Team All-State IPSWA), Anderson Holtz (2nd Team All TRC West), Dylan Knipper (2nd Team All TRC West) and Ty Hoeger.

Other returning letter winners include seniors Preston Salow, Lukas Chesnut, Zach Leytem, DaShawn Strickland and juniors Eli Dougherty and Trevor Grimm.

The experience is a strength Coach Conner noted: "We return a lot of players from last year's team, so we have some high expectations for ourselves as we head into the season. We saw a ton of growth last season from many of our returning players to this year's team and put together a great off season. I expect our seniors to be great leaders this season and continue the standard for MV Boys Basketball that was set by the upperclassmen before them."

Coach Conner noted the strength of the conference. "Each night is a tough one in our league. It is going to take our best each night to be able to achieve the goal of a conference championship that this team has set out to accomplish."

The team opens its season tonight with an Achieve scrimmage with West Delaware. Their first regular season game is Dec. 1 at Central Elkader.

### Wrestling

As the wrestling season kicks off, Maquoketa Valley High School wrestling team is poised for an electrifying year, blending seasoned talent with fresh, dynamic energy.

Anchoring the roster are two re-



Seniors on the boys basketball team are, front row from left: DaShawn Strickland, Anderson Holtz, Dylan Knipper and Zach Leytem; back row: Brady Wall, Ty Hoeger, Kenyon Baker, Preston Salow and Lukas Chesnut.

turning state qualifiers, Kyle Engelken and Dalton Africa, whose experience and leadership are set to inspire a promising young squad.

Both veterans had standout performances last season, showcasing grit and determination on the state stage. Their return brings not just skill but invaluable mentorship for a team brimming with youthful potential. "Having Engelken and Africa guide our younger athletes is a game-changer," said head coach Kurt Hatfield.

The team's younger wrestlers are generating buzz with their raw talent and hunger to prove themselves. Sophomores like Kipton Thompson, Brayden Schuster and Sawyer Kemp have already shown glimpses of brilliance last season hinting at a bright future.

Coach Hatfield stated he is optimistic about the blend of experience and emerging talent: "It's an exciting mix. The veterans bring poise under pressure, while the younger Wrestlers inject energy and

fresh perspectives. We're looking forward to seeing how far this team can go."

With a challenging schedule ahead, the team is focused on growth, teamwork, and making another strong run for the season. Fans can expect intense, passionate performances from this squad determined to leave its mark.

The wrestlers open their season Dec. 4 at Denver where they will face the host team and Wapsie Valley.

### Dance

While we may think the winter sports teams have just started practice, that's far from the truth for the dance team. They've been working hard all fall.

The dance team hosted a very successful Kids Camp & State Preview at our annual Strut Your Stuff Nov. 15. Over 80 campers & a generous crowd were in attendance. Each group learned a country routine in the morning and came back that



The MV dance team is made up of Serenity White, Emma Brockhohn, Cheyenne Eike, Alaina Connolly, Maggie Recker, Taylor Salow, Alaina Mead, Alaina Leytem, Tessa Intof, Lilly Kraft and Natalie Ries.

night to dance with the high school team to a crowd of their family and friends.

The team travels to Des Moines to compete at the State level Dec. 3. Taylor Salow will compete at State Solos. MV will also have a Hip Hop team & a Pom team.

Coach Teymer stated, "Our theme this year is 'Let's Go Girls,' named for our country music Pom routine. This theme was chosen because of how happy I knew it would make the girls. Our Hip Hop routine is a high energy 90s hip hop. It is entitled 'Class of 1998.' That is the year I graduated high school. It really takes me back every time I hear it."

## Girls basketball

Whether they like it or not, the girls basketball players already have a target on their back, thanks to their preseason #7 ranking in 2A despite losing three starters from last year's 22-3 state qualifying team.

"We lost five seniors who contributed so much to last year's success," stated Coach Moenck, who is starting his 20th season with the Wildcats. "With that said, we have a lot of kids who played a lot of minutes last year. They have been working so hard in practice. They come to practice every day wanting to improve. We will improve throughout the year. We will be very

athletic and will be able to put four girls on the floor at the same time who can shoot from the perimeter."

Coach Moenck noted that the schedule is yet again a tough one and sees Springville as one of MV's toughest local competitors: "Our lack of size is a very big concern. There are so many good coaches and players in our area."

MV will clearly be noted on several conference school's top picks list because of the quality of returning players.

Returning starters include seniors Grace Richter (2nd Team All-Conference) and Lanni Beaman and sophomore Audra Burbridge (1st Team All-Conference & 3rd Team All-State).

Other returning letter winners include seniors Macee Nolan, Madison Thompson and Taryn Burbridge along with junior McKenna Mineart.

"Madison battled injuries last year," noted Coach Moenck. "She would have been more of a contributor on last year's state tournament team. I am excited to see what she can accomplish this year."

Experienced players returning are junior Jeanie Teymer and sophomores Khloe Glew, Aubrie Althoff, Morgan Hoeger and Alison Schulte.

Coach Moenck is assisted by Jesse Wooten, Brad Huber, Ali Scherrman and Ella Imler.

The Wildcats will take on a JV/V squad from West Delaware tonight in a shortened game due to West Delaware's low numbers.



Seniors on the girls basketball team are Macee Nolan, Madison Thompson, Taryn Burbridge, Grace Richter and Lanni Beaman (not pictured).