

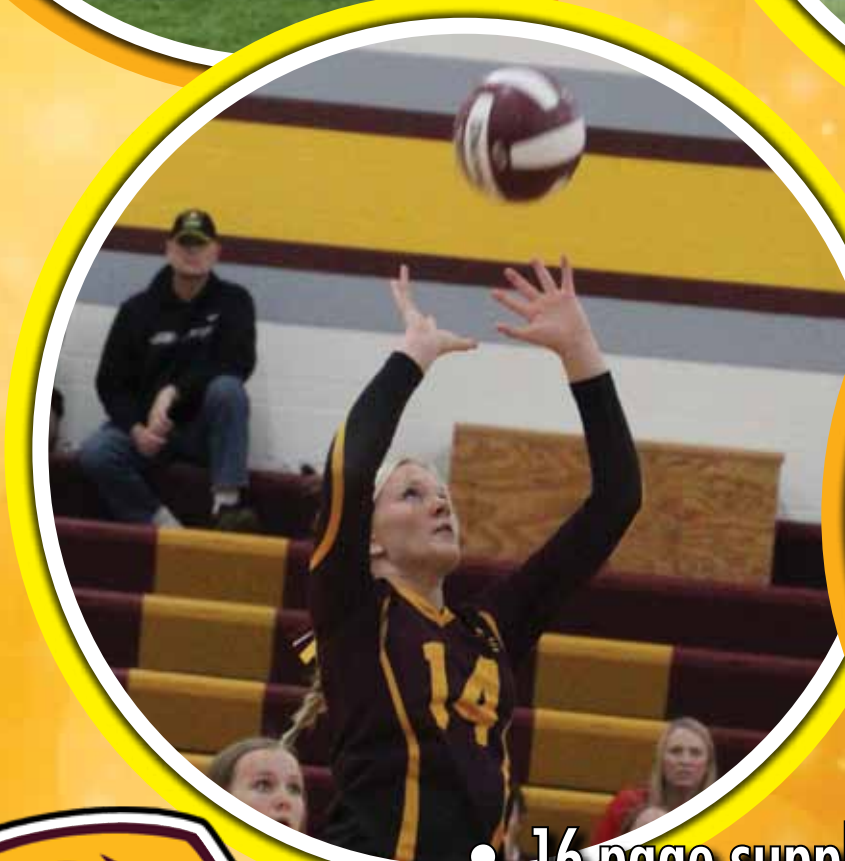
# FALL

HARTLEY-MELVIN-SANBORN HAWKS

SIBLEY-OCHEYEDAN GENERALS

## 2024 SPORTS PREVIEW

FOOTBALL | VOLLEYBALL | CROSS COUNTRY



- 16-page supplement •
- The Ocheyedan Press-Melvin News •
- The Hartley Sentinel-The Everly/Royal News •
- August 28-29, 2024 •



# Hawks are determined to 'play with passion' in 2024

### Experienced team looks to flip record to above .500 mark

BY MIKE PETERSEN

Height, athleticism, experience, greater mental understanding of the game – the Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn volleyball team has all of those attributes entering the 2024 season.



CHERYL KROESE

Eight returning players, including five seniors, played in all or most of H-M-S's matches a year ago. As she named them, Hawk coach Cheryl Kroese had plenty of good things to say about each.

Senior Frankie Mohni is a three-year starter as the Hawks' setter and honorable mention all-War Eagle Conference in 2023.

"Frankie is top-notch. She understands the game. She is strong and can get to balls that most people can't get to," Kroese noted.

Mohni will distribute the volleyball to a tall and talented group of hitters: seniors Kylee Schiphoff [second team all-conference], Abby Douma and Eliza Tewes, and junior Moriah Otto.

"I feel like we have an edge up there because No. 1, I've got three girls standing six-foot and above. That doesn't ever hurt," Kroese noted. "They're athletic. They read each other, they mesh together and they understand the game a lot better than they did possibly as sophomores and juniors."

Junior Eva Stammer is also "coming along nicely" as a hitter.

Most of H-M-S's graduation losses impacted the back row, but there is also returning experience there. Junior Lindsey Van Es moves to the libero role, which

See H-M-S NETS, Page 6



Members of the 2024 Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn varsity volleyball team are front row, from left to right: Kylee Schiphoff, Eliza Tewes, Addy Sheeler, Frankie Mohni and Abby Douma. Second row: Eva Stammer, Lindsey Van Es and Payton Diehm. Third row: Natalie Daggett, Kenadie Van Loon, Hannah Tessum, Moriah Otto, Lillian Van Loon and Jordan Lux. MIKE PETERSEN/SENTINEL-NEWS

#### H-M-S VOLLEYBALL Coaches: Cheryl Kroese (7<sup>th</sup> Year), Julia Storm, Patricia Zimmermann

Tuesday, Sept. 3: Hinton, C/JV/V, Hartley.  
Thursday, Sept. 5: South O'Brien, C/JV/V, Paullina.  
Tuesday, Sept. 10: Trinity Christian, C/JV/V, Hartley.  
Thursday, Sept. 12: George-Little Rock, C/JV/V, George.  
Monday, Sept. 16: Sibley-Ocheyedan,

C/JV/V, Sibley.  
Tuesday, Sept. 17: West Sioux, C/JV/V, Hartley.  
Thursday, Sept. 19: George-Little Rock, C/JV, George, 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 21: GT/RA Tourney, V, Graettinger, 9 a.m.  
Monday, Sept. 23: Spencer Tourney, JV, Spencer, 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 24: Gehlen Catholic, C/JV/V, LeMars.  
Saturday, Sept. 28: H-M-S Tourney, V, Hartley, 9 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 30: Remsen St. Mary's, C/JV/V, Hartley.  
Monday, Oct. 7: George-Little Rock Tourney, 9th, George, 4 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 8: Harris-Lake Park, C/JV/V, Lake Park.  
Tuesday, Oct. 15: MMCURU, C/JV/V, Hartley.  
Thursday, Oct. 17: Akron-Westfield, C/JV/V, Akron.

Matches begin at 5 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

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# S-O netters looking to turn program around this fall

## Generals looking to improve on 0-9 Siouxland record

BY LORI WISER-DYAS

Coming off a season in which the Generals were pretty young, Coach Ali Poepe and her Sibley-Ocheyedan volleyball players are excited for the coming season.



ALI POEPE

With seven returning letterwinners among the 25 girls who comprise the squad, expectations are high, yet realistic.

“This is a super great group of girls,” Poepe said. “This group has put in so much extra work outside of the season on their own since they were very young. I really think this year is going to be great for them. They truly deserve to have big wins and make huge progress for the program. Each year, they have set up our team for success and growth. We are very excited to see what the season has in store for us.”

Leading the team are returning letterwinners Sofia Hisek, Addy Langstraat, Becca Woelber, Grace Saylor, Hadley Crichton and Jackie Ochoa. The team is comprised of four seniors, five juniors, five sophomores and 11 freshmen.

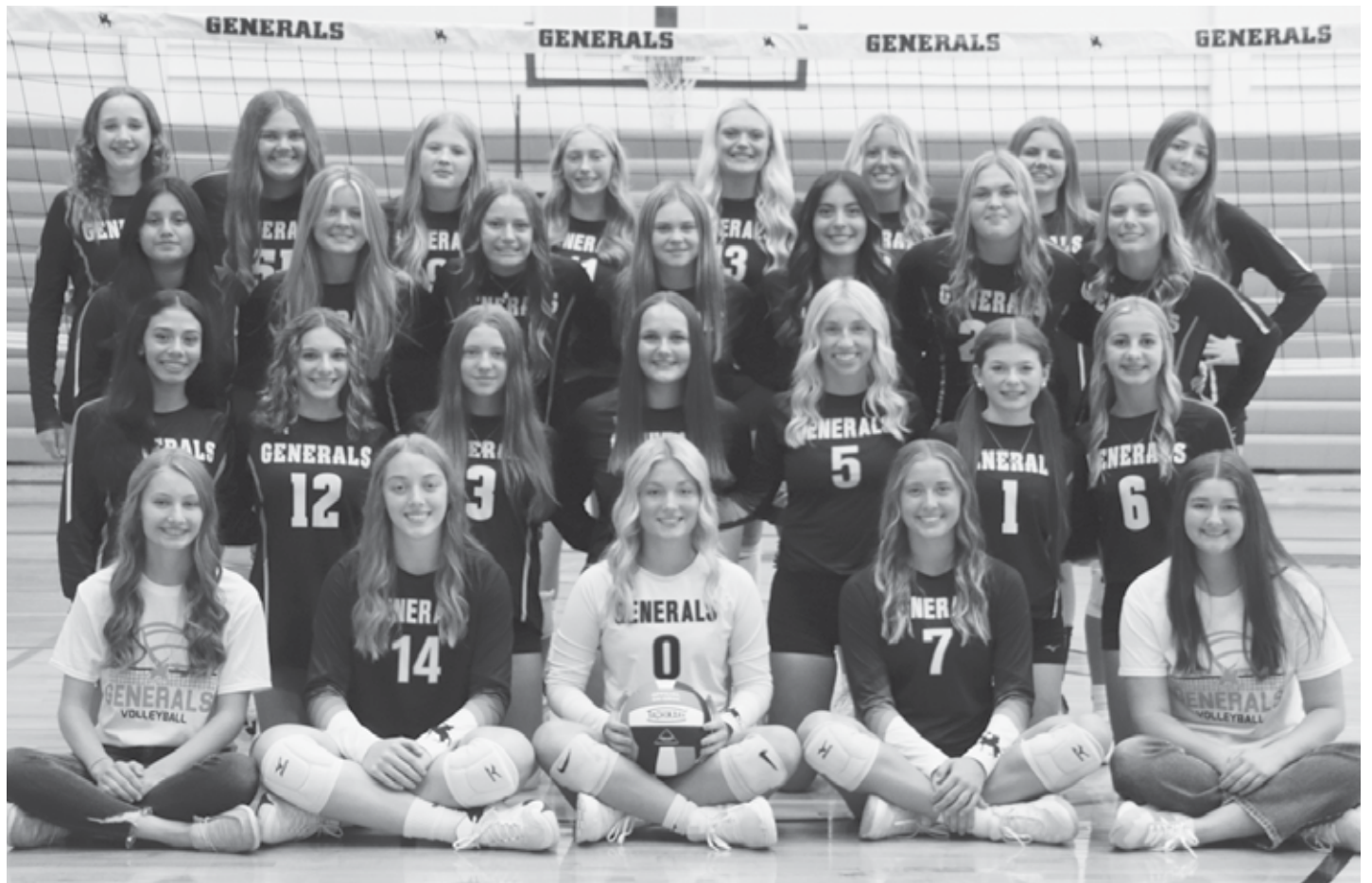
“I think our experience from last year is going to transition into this season very well,” the coach predicted. “They have had a whole season to learn how to play together as well as having the summer to gel.”

Additionally, the coach is optimistic despite graduating three seniors from last year’s team.

“We do have some girls who are very prepared and capable of filling those three spots. We are excited to see how they fit with the team and what they can bring to the team,” Poepe said.

If it’s true defense wins games and

See S-O NETS, Page 10



Members of the 2024 Sibley-Ocheyedan volleyball team pictured front row, from left to right: Lexi Hulstein, Alyssa Jacobsma, Sofia Hisek, Addy Langstraat and Macy Pohlen. Second row: Zaida Ochoa, Alli Wedge, Natalie Ironshell-Renken, Becca Woelber, Grace Saylor, Cheyenne Williams and Lillie Marco. Third row: Genesis Hernandez, Taylor Ling, Emma Holmbeck, Jorryn Julius, Jackie Ochoa, Izabella Gemar and Grace Holmbeck. Back row: Ella Howard, Breanna Jacobsma, Jaylee Prins, Hailey Gacke, Hadley Crichton, Taylor Langstraat, Ameila Hoekstra and Karah Shaffer. Not pictured: Reagan Rusche. ARLYN PEDLEY/PRESS-NEWS

### SIBLEY-OCHEYEDAN VOLLEYBALL Coaches: Ali Poepe (3<sup>rd</sup> Year), Madison Nagel

Saturday, Aug. 31: Spirit Lake Invitational, Spirit Lake, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 3: Okoboji Invitational, Milford, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 9: George-Little Rock, George.

Thursday, Sept. 12: Rock Valley, Rock

Valley.

Monday, Sept. 16: Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn, Sibley, 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 17: Spirit Lake, Spirit Lake, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 19: MOC-Floyd Valley, Sibley.

Thursday, Sept. 26: Sioux Center, Sibley.

Tuesday, Oct. 1: West Lyon, Inwood.

Thursday, Oct. 3: Central Lyon, Sibley.

Tuesday, Oct. 8: Boyden-Hull, Hull.

Thursday, Oct. 10: Okoboji, Sibley.

Tuesday, Oct. 15: Unity Christian, Sibley.

Thursday, Oct. 17: Sheldon, Sheldon.

Monday, Oct. 21: Regional play begins.

Varsity matches begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.



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# Setting their sights on greater things

Boys focus on WEC title repeat; girls have individual goals

BY MIKE PETERSEN

Having won its first conference title a year ago, the Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn boys' cross country team enters the 2024 season with lofty goals.

Five runners whose scores counted toward the winning team total at the 2023 War Eagle Conference meet all return. Seniors Damian Dodge (seventh), Ryan Grotluschen (eighth) and Aiden Bush (10<sup>th</sup>) finished in the Top 15, qualifying for the all-conference team.



NAETHAN HOAGLUND

Senior Blaine Finster placed 23<sup>rd</sup> at the WEC meet, and sophomore Easton Teal ran a personal record time to add a 26<sup>th</sup>-place finish.

The Hawks have their sights set on greater things in 2024.

"They're really motivated. A core group of them put in a lot of miles individually this summer, so they're hungry for it," said first-year coach Naeth Hoaglund. "They want to get back there. But they also know that it's not just one of those things where we can just show up and do it."

Also on the squad are senior Moises Gonzalez, junior Simone Dellavedova, an exchange student from Italy, junior Carter Dolphin and freshmen James Carlin and Karter Zimmer.



Members of the 2024 Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn cross country team are front row, from left to right: Kamryn Ebel and Gracie Knobloch. Second row: Karter Zimmer, Simone Dellavedova, Moises Gonzalez and Blaine Finster. Third row: Damian Dodge, Aiden Bush, Easton Teal, Ryan Grotluschen, Carter Dolphin and James Carlin. MIKE PETERSEN/SENTINEL-NEWS

Determining which athletes will compete in varsity races and who will run JV is a work in progress.

"That's one of the things, being a new coach, that I haven't quite figured out yet," Hoaglund acknowledged. "I have a good idea of 1, 2, 3 and 4, but after that it's kind of wide open. We'll find out more as we get through some time trials in practice and through some of the first meets."

Hoaglund also has the advantage of a senior-led girls' team. "Team" is a stretch, for Gracie Knobloch and Kamryn Ebel are

See H-M-S XC, Page 7

**CROSS COUNTRY**  
Coaches: HS – Naeth Hoaglund (1<sup>st</sup> Year), MS – Janet Prins

Thursday, Aug. 29: Cherokee, JV/V, Cherokee.

Thursday, Sept. 5: Iowa Great Lakes Invitational, MS/JV/V, Brooks Golf Course, 4:10 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 10: Sibley-Ocheyedan, MS/JV/V, Sibley.

Tuesday, Sept. 17: Sioux Central, MS/JV/V, Sioux Rapids.

Monday, Sept. 23: H-M-S, MS/JV/V, Sanborn.

Thursday, Sept. 26: Sioux Center, JV/V, Dordt University.

Monday, Sept. 30: Alta-Aurelia, MS/JV/V, Alta, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 3: South O'Brien, MS/JV/V, Paullina.

Thursday, Oct. 10: George-Little Rock/CL, MS/JV/V, George.

Thursday, Oct. 17: War Eagle Conference, Marcus, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 24: State Qualifying Meet, TBA, 4 p.m.

Meets begin at 4:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.



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# S-O boys' XC team eyeing continued success in 2024

Boys placed 16<sup>th</sup> at last year's state meet

BY LORI WISER-DYAS

Looking to build on their 16<sup>th</sup>-place finish at state a year ago, Sibley-Ocheyedan's boys' cross country team is laser focused heading into the season.

Ten young men, including six letterwinners, return for another campaign. On the girls' side, three athletes are representing the Generals.

The boys' team is led by three seniors and three juniors. Returning letterwinners include seniors David Poppen, Cale Reiter and Cole Dykstra, and juniors Ben Byers, Carter Vos and Triston Vos. They are joined by senior Elliot Daiker, junior Erick Kleinwolterink and freshmen Kyler Shaffer and Roland Rusche.

Girls competing this fall include senior Erika Rosenberg and freshmen Aleah Marco and Amadelaid Benitez.

The boys had a spectacular season a year ago and are putting in the work to continue that success.

"We made it as a team (to state) last year and are very motivated to improve our performance and placing from last year's state meet," said coach Ryan Wiersma. "We have had some great practices already to start the season."

Byers finished 13<sup>th</sup> in the state meet to cap a spectacular season. However, he was not alone in that category. He, along with Reiter and Dykstra, posted personal best times in Fort Dodge.

This experience is one of the squad's strengths, according to their coach.

"For the boys, we are pretty experienced," he said. "We had a solid cross country season last year and a really good track season. We want to build on that experience and success. They are very hard working guys who have bought into our program and what I want



RYAN WIERSMA



Members of the 2024 Sibley-Ocheyedan cross country team pictured front row, from left to right: Kyler Shaffer, Amadelaid Benitez, Aleah Marco, Erika Rosenberg and Triston Vos. Back row: Elliot Daiker, Cole Dykstra, Carter Vos, Ben Byers, Cale Reiter and David Poppen. Not pictured: Eric Kleinwolterink and Roland Rusche. ARLYN PEDLEY/PRESS-NEWS

my runners to be about. They are all really good dudes from great families. I love coaching them and, in general, being around them, helping them reach their potential. I am excited to see what they can do this season."

As for his trio of girls, Wiersma said he thinks they will "make serious improvements as the season goes on and, hopefully, they will be competitive on the varsity level towards the end of the season."

Even with the enthusiasm, every coach en-

See S-O CC, Page 11

## SIBLEY-OCHEYEDAN CROSS COUNTRY

Coaches: Ryan Wiersma (11<sup>th</sup> Year), Lisa Block

Thursday, Sept. 5: Iowa Great Lakes Invitational, Brooks Golf Club.

Tuesday, Sept. 10: S-O Invitational, Sibley.

Saturday, Sept. 14: Ridge View, Holstein, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 17: Sioux Central, Sioux Rapids.

Tuesday, Sept. 24: Sheldon, Sheldon.

Thursday, Sept. 26: Sioux Center, Sioux Center.

Thursday, Oct. 3: South O'Brien, Paullina.

Saturday, Oct. 5: Wartburg Invitational, Waverly.

Thursday, Oct. 10: G-LR/CL, George.

Tuesday, Oct. 15: Siouxland Conference, Rolling Hills, Hull.

Thursday, Oct. 24: State Qualifying Meet, TBA.

Saturday, Nov. 2: State Meet, Fort Dodge.

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### H-M-S nets

From page 2

she filled part of last season while also playing as a defensive specialist. Senior Addy Sheeler has improved defensively and can play in the back row, as well as contribute at the net.

The only new face in the lineup is Payton Diehm. Kroese said the junior will be in the mix as a defensive specialist.

"Having that base of people, we've got high expectations," she acknowledged. "I feel like our rotation is set. Not that it can't change who I put where but as far as who's going to be out on the court, we're pretty solid with what we've got coming back."

The Hawks' serving appears to be more aggressive, which Kroese said is a plus. She also feels that blocking should be a strength.

"Height doesn't hurt and I think we have some smart blockers, so I'm hoping we can generate some offense off of our defense," she said.

The theme for the season is "practice with purpose and play with passion." It serves as a reminder during the ups and downs of the season.

"They know the things they have to do. I don't have to tell them that anymore," Kroese said. "When you can get your kids to know that and they take over what they need to do, that makes it a whole different level of confidence."

Looking to competing on the court, Kroese again expects tough competition in the War Eagle Conference, where H-M-S hopes to improve on its 2-8 record in 2023. She feels Hinton should be the favorite to win the title again.

"You've got to believe with Bailey Boeve sitting at Hinton, they're going to be at the top of the list," Kroese said. "I know they lost quite a few seniors but

when you can build a team around that, you're going to be pretty solid."

Several other schools, including George-Little Rock, Gehlen Catholic, Remsen St. Mary's, MMCRU and Trinity Christian, have solid programs.

"You don't have many off nights," she acknowledged. "Part of our challenge is coming into every match and, as I told the girls, you've got to come in and you've got to find that passion every night and figure out how to bring it to the court."


She also feels H-M-S's non-conference schedule will help build confidence.

Team goals hadn't been set as of early last week, but Kroese has her own expectations for the season.

"Personally, a 7-18 record [last year] wasn't successful," she said. "I know that we should be above that .500 range. In that top third of the conference would be where I would like to see us, because we have some great athletes that can do some great things."



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## H-M-S CC

From page 4

of qualifying for the 2023 all-conference team and Ebel placed 23<sup>rd</sup>.

"I know a ballpark of what their PR was and I know that they're hungry to get better," Hoaglund said. "They want to race their best races. They wouldn't be out if they didn't want to prove something to themselves. So far their attitudes and their work ethic have been huge."

With low girls' numbers, H-M-S will not compete for team scoring. But both individuals have other accomplishments to achieve.

"For them it's No. 1, can you race and beat your previous self? It just comes down to you versus you," Hoaglund said. "That's really what we're focusing on. We want to become strong runners. If we can't beat our previous score, can we feel like we finished

strong and ran with confidence."

Hoaglund is pleased with the leadership of the upperclassmen.

"I rely on those older kids, the kids that have done it multiple years, quite a bit. So far these seniors and older kids have done a good job of leading, kind of pushing me in the right direction at the same time, so I think it's a good relationship that we have so far," Hoaglund said.

He has made changes in workout strategies that are intended to help athletes be at their best at the end of the season, and to stay healthy and injury-free.

That will be crucial if the Hawks are to be successful at the War Eagle Conference meet and in postseason competition. Hoaglund does not know much about the other girls' programs in the conference. As for the boys, George-Little Rock/Central Lyon and Hinton return several athletes and could challenge H-M-S for the conference title.

The Hawks also have set their sights

**"They wouldn't be out if they didn't want to prove something to themselves."**

**- Naet Hoaglund**


beyond the regular season. They finished fourth as a team at the 1A state qualifying meet and want to compete at state this fall.

"Some of those seniors have brought it up. One of their goals is they want to get there," Hoaglund noted. "I like that they have it out there. It's my job to say, 'Yes, that's a 100 percent possibility that could happen to us, but if we don't do x, y and z...' And they've responded to that. They know they've got to work hard. Nothing is given. They want it, but we've got to work toward it."

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# Hawks take a 'modern' approach to the game



Members of the 2024 Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn football team are front row, from left to right: Jayden Leth, James Gellerman, Isaac Schierholz, Jackson Vogt, Lawton Schiphoff, Jack Mastbergen, Hunter Daggett, McCoy Smith and Slayton McCarter. Second row: Taylor Dykstra, Nathan Stofferan, Octmann Mattis, Emilio Martinez, Diego Esquivel, Anthony Olvera, Brayden Moore, John Buhrmann and Graham Lux. Third row: Joe Buhrmann, Blake Meendering, Luke Dagel, Mykle Myers, Riley Wiersma, Jackson Brower, David Wetrich, Riley Mattingly, Brody Meendering and Parker Salton. Fourth row: Owen Tiff, Damion Hansen, Alex Billings, Jorge Ramirez, Jacob Roelfs, Eli Mastbergen, Dominic Tripp, Ricky Smith and Victor Rodriguez. Fifth row: Coaches Korey Ebel, Jaden Kleinhesselink, Kyle Vogt, Jeremiah Delzer (head), Mark Petersen and Chris Schmidt. MIKE PETERSEN/SENTINEL-NEWS

## Many changes in store for 2024 edition of H-M-S football

BY MIKE PETERSEN

In a nutshell, the Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn football team is going "modern."

The Hawks have a new head coach and that change is leading to new ways of doing things throughout the program. That is certainly true of the offense, which is moving away from "the oldest offense in the book."

"It's going to look more like modern football," said Hawk coach Jeremiah Delzer. "I know H-M-S has always been ground and pound. That's something that we definitely

want to do but it's not going to be our MO anymore. It's going to look more like the spread modern football that you're going to see from other teams."

Delzer said the offense is a mix of things he has learned from previous coaching experiences, other coaches and clinics. Installing the new system began early in the summer and has required "a lot of rewrite in kids' brains" to make it understandable.

"Hopefully we've set up a good communications system to get kids to understand this is what we're doing and why we're doing it, so we give them the tools to figure it out," Delzer explained.



JEREMIAH DELZER

See H-M-S, Page 14

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As another fall sports season kicks off, we'd like to extend our wishes for a safe and successful year to all of the **Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn** teams. Here's hoping your hard work, skill and dedication take you all the way to the championships!

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# Generals look to make next step on gridiron this season



Members of the 2024 Sibley-Ocheyedan football team pictured front row, from left to right: Sakura Alanis, Mike McCarty, Trevor Doeden, Alex Bosma, Josue Nicolas, Juan Martinez, Alan Mejia, Kayne Julius, Brett Doeden, Daryl Tutje and Dalton Wingate. Second row: Dougla Macias, Kayden Kooima, Jaxon Pedley, Gavin Stanton, Dominic Marco, Phillip Van Westen, Tanner Gries, Aidan Beyer, Tate Marco, Dawson Beyer, Dawson Kreykes and Evan Beltman. Third row: Wilson Garcia, Kyler Elser, Luke Heilman, Gage Greenfield, Alex Kruger, Hunter Kauffman, Gabe Bevers, Jonathan Olvera-Don, Damien Cruz, Anderson Mendez and Easton Beyer. Fourth row: Christopher Bremer, Levi Sayler, Ezequiel Cruz, Jace Marco, Tristen Wingate, Elijah Sayler, Avery Maker, Zack Trierweiler, Sergio Cazares and Jordi Acevedo. Back row: Brysen Loerts, Toby Prins, Hayden Glade, Jack Brockshus and Giovanni Garcia. Not pictured: Tommy Wietzema. ARLYN PEDLEY/PRESS-NEWS

## Reaching playoffs is S-O's top priority

BY LORI WISER-DYAS

According to Head Coach Mike McCarty, his Sibley-Ocheyedan football team is "in a good spot" heading into the upcoming season. Of course, that is one of the benefits of playing last season with an extremely young team.

"We lost some size and experience but we also have experience coming back," said McCarty.

The Generals return 15 letter winners, including five returning starters from last year's 2-7 squad. Returning starters include junior running back Dominic Marco; senior Kayne Julius, who split time between wide receiver and quarterback;

junior receiver Dawson Kreykes; sophomore running back Hunter Kauffman; and junior receiver Tanner Gries.

They are joined by senior letter winners Alex Bosma, Juan Martinez and Josue Nicolas; juniors Aiden Beyer, Dawson Beyer, Kyler Elser, Tate Marco, Dougla Madias, Jaxon Pedley, Gavin Stanton and Phillip Van Westen; and sophomores Easton Beyer, Gage Greenfield and Luke Heilman.

Julius and Kauffman are talented ball



MIKE McCARTY

See S-O FOOTBALL, Page 15

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**S-O nets**

From page 3

championships, the Generals will be well prepared. Poeppe cited the Generals' defense as the

team's strength this fall.

"We have a very strong back row as well as a tall front row block," the coach noted. "Our block will do a great job of slowing down the ball as well as helping create opportunities for our defense to keep the ball alive. We want to push our defense to challenge our opponents into having to figure out a way to score."

Scoring is, however, a necessity in the game and offense is one of Poeppe's areas of concern coming into the season.

"We are continually trying to speed up our offense and be as consistent as possible," she said. "We are lucky to have a young group of girls which have had opportunities to stick together and work on making those strong on-court connections. We hope to strengthen our offense so we can take advantage of our strong defense."

A year after going 4-18 overall and 0-9 in Siouxland Conference play, the goal for this season is to hit the .500 mark.

"We want to prove we can compete in the Siouxland Conference," said Poeppe.

Poeppe pointed to Okoboji and Sheldon as teams the Generals are focusing on for victories. As for the always-tough Siouxland Conference, the coach pointed to Boyden-Hull, MOC/Floyd Valley and Sioux Center as the top contenders for the league title.



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S-O CC

From page 5

ters the season with concerns. Wiersma's is the lack of numbers.

"Right now, we will not have a girls' team as we only have three out but I am always trying to get new runners out," Wiersma noted. "Also, with such few numbers, we need to stay healthy, especially on the boys' side of things. That is always a priority."

Despite the low numbers, the boys have some lofty goals, the main one being earning a return trip to the state meet as a team.

"This year we want to improve on that performance by trying to be one of the better teams in all of Class 1A," he said. "Also, individually, we want to be better runners than last year...keep making improvements and not just faster times, but our mentality and how we take care of our bodies."

You'll notice there is no mention of the Siouxland Conference. Instead of focusing on the conference, Wiersma said he wants his team to "focus on ourselves and compete every time out to get better. By October, our focus will be on 1A and the state qualifying meet."

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Members of the 2024 Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn junior varsity volleyball team are front row, from left to right: Cammy Wilson, Miley Appeldorn, Kinley Sampson, Kloe Wolthuis, Madi Lauer and Emery Cammann. Second row: Laura Vargas, Keely Ebel, Lexi Schmillen, Adilynn Postma, Mallory Pearson and Mahkenzie Mattingly. Third row: Natalie Daggett, Kenadie Van Loon, Lillian Van Loon, Hannah Tessum and Jordan Lux. MIKE PETERSEN/SENTINEL-NEWS



Members of the 2024 Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn freshman volleyball team are front row, from left to right: Kenadie Van Loon, Mallory Pearson, Addily Benz, Jenna Hengeveld and Laura Vargas. Second row: Adilynn Postma, Hunter Schomaker, Stella Anderson, Lily Den Beste and Kaeley Benson. Third row: Lexi Schmillen, Keely Ebel, Ellie Pals, Natalie Dagel, Allee Walker and manager Kaidence Shaffer. MIKE PETERSEN/SENTINEL-NEWS

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### S-O football cheer team



Members of the 2024 Sibley-Ocheyedan football cheerleading squad pictured front row, from left to right: Presley Henning, Mariah Dake, Natalie Wollmuth, Mya Pohlen and Olivia Lopez. Back row: Andrea Uribe, Alexa Mejia Martinez, Tiffany Torres and Kyliegh Wollmuth. Not pictured: Kennedy Hoekstra. ARLYN PEDLEY/PRESS-NEWS



### H-M-S JV cheer team

Members of the 2024 Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn junior varsity football cheer squad are, front row from left to right: Amelia Tait, Kaylee Newkirk and Nevaeh Almager. Second row: Addily Benz, Ellie Pals and Mallory Pearson. MIKE PETERSEN/SENTINEL-NEWS



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## H-M-S varsity cheer team

Members of the 2024 Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn varsity football cheer squad are front row, left to right: Jackie Ramirez, Jamie Diaz, Lainie Raveling and Jenna Hengeveld. Second row: Jessica Diaz, Kynlee Dolphin, Jordan Lux and Abby Rons. The cheer coach is Margeaux Gerdeman. MIKE PETERSEN/SENTINEL-NEWS

## H-M-S

From page 8

So far, the players are figuring it out. Delzer credits their willingness to change and put in the time at team camp and workouts to learn the new system.

“The kids have done a great job. You can tell they’re excited. They want to do it and they want to get it right,” he said.

For the coaches, the process involves getting players with varsity experience into positions that will give them the best opportunity to be successful.

“Obviously there are guys who are going to come year after year that are really quality players. We just need to find a way to emphasize their talents and make them do really well,” he said. “I think we have a good idea where we want our depth to be.”

Top returners from last year’s 1-7 squad include a pair of seniors who were named to the Class A District 1 all-district teams. James Gellerman, a first-team selection, led H-M-S in rushing and receiving yards, and was second in total tackles. Slayton McCarter was honorable mention.

The defense will also be new, although there will be some things that will be similar to what was featured in the past.

The philosophy of the Hawks’ special teams is to make them “super competitive” and to get the best players on the field.

“We try to hammer out skills and fundamentals on special teams early in every practice to get good live reps,” Delzer explained. “We’re mixing younger guys in and older guys in. We just want a really competitive group when it comes to that.”

The Hawks will play an eight-game schedule, including six games against district oppo-

nents. Their non-district games are on Aug. 30 against West Sioux in Hartley, and at Kingsley-Pierson on Sept. 27. Both teams have had recent postseason success.

“I think they’re both teams that are going to be solid year in and year out. They’re going to bring a good group, and be well prepared and have a good game plan,” Delzer observed. “I’m excited for a Week 1 matchup where we get to go against who used to be the king of high school football and still is a very, very competitive team, and kind of test out where we are and have that measuring stick early.”

Delzer foresees changes in Class A District 1 due to graduation losses and teams bringing up younger players who could be good competitors.

“I think a lot of teams have a really good chance to win the district this year just from bringing back experience,” he noted. “I really hope we can hold it through and be competitive. I seriously think we can because I think we’ve got a good chance.”

Measures for success will take different forms for H-M-S.

“With the group we’ve got, I think we can seriously be really competitive in every single game that we play and have a good chance to win every single game that we play,” Delzer said. “We’ve got a lot of growth yet to do, so it is yet to be seen. I’m not somebody who really harps on the numbers.

“The way I see things is you can look at numbers, and if you define success by number of wins and losses and this and that, that’s the most fleeting thing,” he continued. “I always try to say the way that I want our program’s success to be defined as, ‘Did every single person become the best version of themselves by the time they left H-M-S football?’”

### H-M-S FOOTBALL

Coaches: Coaches: Jeremiah Delzer (1<sup>st</sup> Year), Korey Ebel, Jaden Kleinhesselink, Mark Petersen, Chris Schmidt, Kyle Vogt

### VARSITY (7 P.M.)

Friday, Aug. 30: West Sioux, Hartley.  
Friday, Sept. 6: Alta-Aurelia, Hartley.  
Friday, Sept. 13: MMCRU, Marcus.  
Friday, Sept. 20: A-W, Hartley.  
Friday, Sept. 27: K-P, Kingsley.  
Friday, Oct. 4: South O’Brien, Hartley (Homecoming).

Friday, Oct. 11: Sibley-Ocheyedan, Sibley.

Friday, Oct. 18: Gehlen Cath., LeMars.

### JUNIOR VARSITY (5:30 P.M.)

Tuesday, Sept. 3: Hinton, Hartley.  
Monday, Sept. 16: MMCRU, Hartley.  
Monday, Sept. 30: Unity Christian, Hartley.  
Monday, Oct. 7: S-O, Sibley.  
Monday, Oct. 14: Emmetsburg, Emmetsburg.  
Monday, Oct. 21: Sheldon, Sheldon.

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### S-O football

From page 9

carriers for the Generals.

“Kayne is very elusive. He can put on a move and be gone while Hunter will just run over the defender,” McCarty said. “Hunter is a very good and capable quarterback but we want him in the backfield. He looked great this summer. He will be a great running back and possibly future quarterback.”

McCarty is looking for big things from Marco, who he described as “bigger and stronger,” Kreykes and T. Marco.

“We have a bunch of young guys who look good,” he revealed.

One area in which the Generals are looking for players to step up is on the line.

“We need to replace guys on the line,” the coach said. “We lost three great linemen in Michael Block, Cassidy Henrichs and Noah Doeden, who combined for 173 tackles last year. We do have some young guys who are ready to step up.”

The cupboard, however, is not bare. Nicolas, Martinez, Elser, Van Westen, Gage Greenfield and Tommy Wietzema (SO) are back and “fully capable” of stepping into those spots.

With the returning experience, the Generals have some high expectations, according to the coach. Among those are to better last year’s 2-7 record and fourth-place finish in the district. They also want to cut down on penalties.

“We need to keep control of our emotions so we can win those close games,” McCarty noted.

Three of the Generals’ losses last year were by a combined nine points.

“If we are going to achieve our goals, we need to win at least five games,” the coach said. “We have the potential to win them all. If we win six, that puts us up to be the second seed. There is no reason, if we play well, we can’t win. The kids are confident they can compete. We have the right group of kids and good coaches. Everything just feels right.”

However, in addition to playing to their potential, the Generals will also need to avoid injuries.

“If we can stay healthy, we have depth,” he said.

That depth will be needed in the district. McCarty noted that Sheldon is “always tough,” even with a new coach this year. One factor in the Generals’ favor is they get both Sheldon and Akron-Westfield at home.

“If we play to our potential, we can play with anyone,” he said.



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- Friday, Sept. 6: Akron-Westfield, Sibley.
- Friday, Sept. 13: South O’Brien, Paullina.
- Friday, Sept. 20: Alta-Aurelia, Sibley (Homecoming).
- Friday, Sept. 27: MMCRU, Marcus.
- Friday, Oct. 4: Gehlen Catholic, LeMars.
- Friday, Oct. 11: Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn, Sibley.
- Friday, Oct. 18: North Union, Armstrong.



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The Hartley Sentinel-The Everly/Royal News!