

Drive For Five Begins For Wynot Girls

BY JEREMY HOECK
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WYNOT, Neb. — Kristi Bruening starts talking about the success of the Wynot High School girls' basketball program and loses count of how many consecutive titles it's won.

"Winning five in a row ... four or five, what is it?" the senior asks.

Junior teammate Danielle Wieseler chimes in immediately with, "It's four. We've been there five times in a row."

The Blue Devils prefer to instead look to the future, despite becoming a Class D2 powerhouse. Wynot, 24-6 last season, graduated only two players from its fourth consecutive title team.

"Hopefully that means we can get back to where we were last year and possibly be better," said All-State senior guard Jenna Heine.

Doing that will require others to step forward this season. Heine and Wieseler both averaged 10.2 points a game last season, while sophomore Cortney Arkfeld averaged 7.3 points and 5.2 rebounds as a freshman.

What isn't going to change, though, is Wynot's trademark full-court pressure defense.

"We'll be pretty much the same way, with the fastbreak and the pressing," Heine said. "We all know what we're doing, for the most part, we're just teaching the new kids."

Might it be the definition of "if it ain't broke don't fix it"?



WYNOT LADY BLUE DEVILS

"We've had good success with it, so there's no reason to change it," head coach Steve Wieseler said.

"That's all we know; what we're used to." Many of the faces who will

see the court this season are ones who helped Wynot reach the state volleyball tournament this past season.

An early loss may prove to be the motivation the Blue Devils need to start the bas-

ketball season strong. "It gets us more excited to get back there in basketball, since we were there and didn't get done what we wanted," Danielle Wieseler said.

Also back this season for Wynot are Carissa Kuchta (So., 3.6 ppg, 1.5 spg), Olivia Wieseler (Jr., Skylar Arkfeld (So., 1.5 ppg, 1.3 rpg) and Holly Lavos (So.). Newcastle transfer Melissa Schram (Sr.)

also joins the program. "Even though we might look young on paper, we've got a lot of experience," coach Wieseler said. "They've really matured."

Once again, the Blue Devils will play a schedule limited in Class D2 opponents (only two, aside from any in tournaments). As for how the rest of the D2 landscape looks, it's a bit early to really gauge anything beyond Wynot, its coach said.

"I'm pretty excited about our potential, as far as big picture," coach Wieseler said. "If we stay healthy and work hard, I'm anxious to see what we could do."

The experience of hoisting championship trophies down in Lincoln only fuels the fire, Bruening said.

"We know what it takes to get there, and we don't lose sight of our goals," she said. "We know how rewarding it can be at the end of the season."

Sometimes, though, the Blue Devils admit to taking a step back and relishing in their state tournament success.

"It's been a really good experience," Danielle Wieseler said. "We're really lucky because not every team gets to go to state."

"It's nice to be in a small community and have fun and play together."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

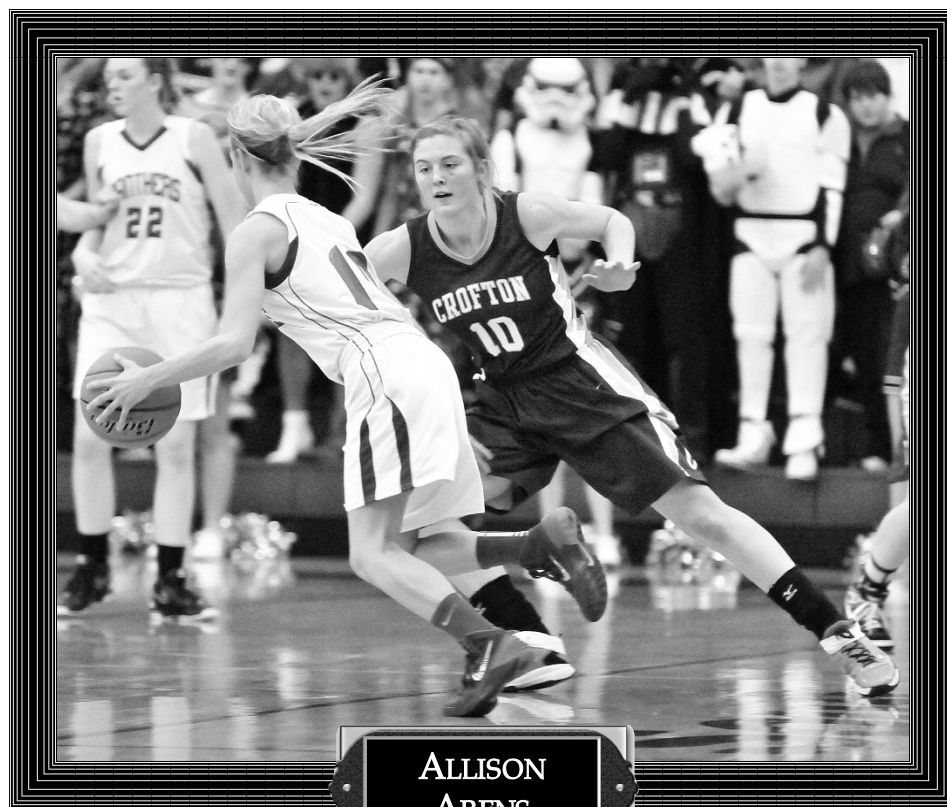
NEBRASKA GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Area Teams Aim To Derail Repeat Runs By Wynot, Crofton

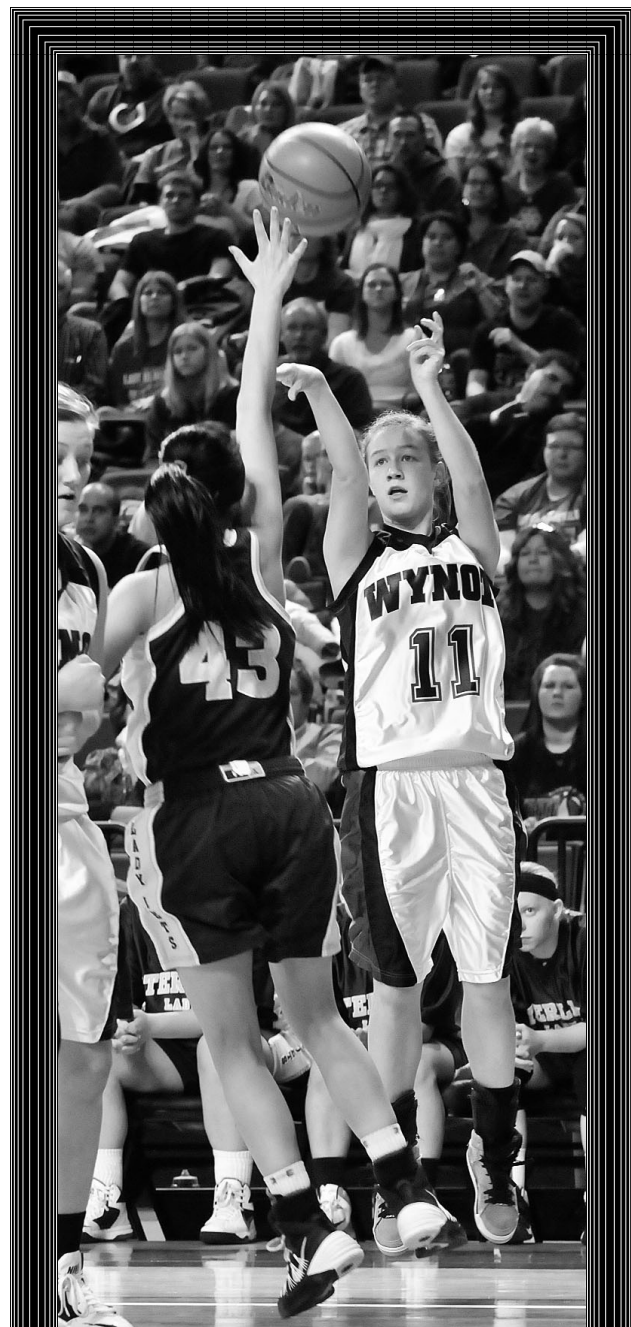
Allen
COACH: Zach Wemhoff
ASSISTANTS: Todd Sullivan, Jason Olesen
VITALS: Class D1, Sub-District D1-5, Lewis and Clark Conference
LAST YEAR: Allen ended the season with a 9-13 record. They graduated three letterwinners.
RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Lindsey Sullivan (Sr., 5-5, G, 11.6 ppg, 3 spg, All Conference), Brooke Hingst (Sr., 5-6, G), Alexis Johnson (Sr., 5-5, G), Gabby Sullivan (Jr., 5-11, F, 9 ppg, 6 rpg, All Conference), Lexi Oswald (Jr., 5-4, G, 5 ppg), Kaylen Smith (Jr., 5-10, F), Mariah Keiser (Jr., 5-5, G), Brooke Kneiff (Jr., 5-6, F), Sherry Stallbawn (Sr., 5-10, F), Rachel Kneiff (So., 5-8, F)
TOP PROSPECT: Bri Hingst (Fr., 5-6, G)

Bloomfield
COACH: Terri Mlady
ASSISTANT: Vicky Jensen
VITALS: Class D1, Sub-District D1-6, Lewis and Clark Conference
LAST YEAR: Bloomfield finished with a record of 4-16.
RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Amanda Goeden (Sr., 5-4, G), Brittany Kerbel (Jr., 5-3, PG), Laura Nagengast (Jr., 5-7, G), Karly Jensen (Jr., 5-8, F), Amber Bruegman (S., 5-3, G), Renae Kauth (So., 5-3, F), Sarah Castaneda (So., 5-10, F), Leah Poppe (So., 5-7, G)
TOP PROSPECTS: Joshi Satterly (So., 5-3, G), Brandi Guenther (Fr., 5-9, F), Michelle Wachter (Fr., 5-3, G), Addison Barger (Fr., 5-1, G), Hannah Schmeckpeper-Pena (Fr., 5-5, C), Emman Fielder (Fr., 5-9, G/F), Taylor Ketelson (Fr., 5-3, F)

Crofton
COACH: Aaron Losing
ASSISTANTS: Tiffany Panning, Taylor Schumacher
VITALS: Class C2, Sub-District C2-4, Mid-State Conference
LAST YEAR: The Warriors went 27-1 and won their third straight state title. They graduated two players.
TOP PROSPECTS: Allison Arens (Sr., 5-9, G, 1st team All-State, 16 ppg, 5.4 apg), Quinn Wragge (Sr., 6-0, G/F, 2nd team All-State, 10.4 ppg, 3.5 rpg), Maria Wortmann (Sr., 5-11, F, All-Conference, 5.8 ppg, 5.8 rpg), Kelsey Sanger (So., 5-7, G/F, HM All-Conference, 6.9 ppg, 4.5 apg), Monica Arens (So., 5-10, F, 8 ppg, 4.8 rpg), Breanna Allen (Jr., 5-4, G, 4.9 ppg), Allison Tramp (Jr., 5-5, G, 5.1 ppg), Katie Petersen (Jr., 5-10, F, 3.8 ppg, 2.6 rpg), Lily Steffen (Sr., 5-8, G/F, 1.9 ppg), Brittany Guenther (Jr., 5-1, G), Lauren Steffen (So., 5-6, G/F), Chelsea Wortmann (Jr., 5-3, G/F), Kyla Dendinger (Jr., 5-5, G/F), Kaitlynn Vornhagen (Jr., 5-6, F), Tory Tammen (So., 5-7, G/F), Mariah Dendinger (So., 5-8, F), Sam Altwine (So., 5-3, G)
NEWCOMERS: Rayne Alvin (Fr.), Haley Arens (Fr.), Mackenzie Foxhoven (Fr.), Madisen Kube (Fr.), Hannah Steffen (Fr.), Kara Eskins (Fr.), Lauren Arens (Fr.), Kristen Rowley (Fr.)



ALLISON ARENS



JENNA HEINE (11)

Hartington Cedar Catholic
COACH: Robb Koerning

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HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE			
Boys' Basketball			
Dec. 5.....vs. Ponca	Jan. 16.....vs. Osmond	Dec. 6.....at O'Neill St. Mary's	Jan. 20.....at Laurel-Concord-Col.
Dec. 9.....at Walthill	Jan. 23.....vs. Bloomfield	Dec. 15.....at Emerson-Hubbard	Jan. 27.....at Plainview
Dec. 16.....vs. Allen	Jan. 29.....at Winside	Dec. 20.....at Wakefield	Jan. 30-Feb. 9.....L&C Conf. Tour.
Dec. 22.....at Crofton	Feb. 10.....vs. Wausa	Jan. 2-3.....Creighton Holiday Tour.	Feb. 13.....vs. Wynot
Jan. 8-9.....Classic Tour.	Feb. 20.....vs. Randolph	Jan. 15.....at Homer	
Girls' Basketball			
Dec. 5.....vs. Ponca	Jan. 16.....vs. Osmond	Dec. 6.....at O'Neill St. Mary's	Jan. 20.....at Laurel-Concord-Col.
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Jan. 15.....at Homer	Feb. 20.....vs. Randolph		
Wrestling (w/Hartington-Newcastle)			
Dec. 4.....at Scribner-Snyder.....Scribner	Dec. 6.....Creighton Invitational.....Creighton	Dec. 13.....Stanton Invitational.....Stanton	Dec. 20.....Elgin Public-Pope John Invitational.....Elgin
Dec. 30.....Pierce Invitational.....Pierce	Jan. 10.....Winside Invitational.....Winside	Jan. 15.....vs. Crofton-Bloomfield, West Holt.....Crofton	Jan. 17.....Battle Creek Invitational.....Battle Creek
Jan. 23.....Madison Invitational.....Madison, Neb.	Jan. 31.....Plainview Invitational.....Plainview	Feb. 7.....Norfolk Catholic Invitational.....Norfolk	

CEDAR CATHOLIC			
Boys' Basketball			
Dec. 5.....vs. Bonne Cent.-NG	Jan. 23.....at Wayne	Dec. 6.....at O'Neill St. Mary's	Jan. 24.....at Guardian Angels CC
Dec. 9.....at Bloomfield	Jan. 27.....vs. Ponca	Dec. 12.....at Crofton	Jan. 29.....at Wagner
Dec. 16.....vs. O'Neill	Jan. 31-Feb. 7.....Mid-State Conf.	Dec. 29-31.....Wayne Holiday Tour.	Feb. 12.....at Battle Creek
Jan. 2-3.....Knight Holiday Classic	Feb. 14.....vs. Lutheran High NE	Jan. 8.....vs. Laurel-Concord-Col.	Feb. 20.....at Norfolk Catholic
Jan. 16.....vs. Pierce			
Girls' Basketball			
Dec. 4.....vs. Crofton	Jan. 16.....vs. Pierce	Dec. 5.....vs. Bonne Cent.-NG	Jan. 17.....at Lutheran High NE
Dec. 9.....at Bloomfield	Jan. 22.....vs. Homer	Dec. 12.....at Crofton	Jan. 24.....at Guardian Angels CC
Dec. 15.....vs. O'Neill	Jan. 27.....vs. Ponca	Dec. 18.....vs. Norfolk Catholic	Jan. 31-Feb. 7.....Mid-State Conf.
Dec. 29-31.....Wayne Holiday Tour.	Feb. 10.....at Wayne	Jan. 6.....at Allen	Feb. 12.....at Battle Creek
Jan. 8.....vs. Laurel-Concord-Col.			
Wrestling (w/Hartington-Newcastle)			
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