

Success Breeds Success For CHS Girls

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

CROFTON, Neb. — As the gap between seasons has shortened because of deep playoff runs, the motivation to keep success rolling only builds for girls' athletes at Crofton High School.

Just ask them. "Everyone just sees that success and thinks, 'Let's carry that on in everything we do,'" said senior Quinn Wragge, a three-sport standout. "It helps in basketball and in everything else."

In the past nine months, the following has happened for girls' athletic teams in the northeast Nebraska school:

- The basketball team won its third straight state title, its sixth over the last 10 years,
- The track and field team captured its first state championship since 2007,
- The cross country program won its ninth consecutive state title, matching the longest streak in Nebraska history, and
- Volleyball reached the state Class C2 championship match but lost to Freeman.

Many of the same names and faces played roles in each of those tournament runs, but when it comes to returning to the basketball court, the Warriors are motivated to make up for their volleyball finish.

"It gets everybody a little bit more motivated, and being down at state really makes you want to get there again," senior point guard Allison Arens said.

That hasn't been a problem for the Warriors over the last decade.

Crofton, with six state basketball championships since 2005, has won 61 of its last 62 games, dating back to the 2011-12 season. The Warriors went undefeated two seasons ago and were 27-1 last season on the way to a third straight title.

The volleyball loss, though, is still fresh in mind.

"You know how that feels, so you want to do better in basketball," senior Maria Wortmann said.

The story for Crofton will again be its depth this season. Even with



CROFTON LADY WARRIORS

the graduation of two players, the Warriors return four starters and a number of other reserves who see regular time.

Allison Arens, a University of South Dakota recruit, was a first team All-State selection as a junior after averaging 16 points and 5.4 assists per game. Wragge, a second

team All-State pick, averaged 10.4 points and 3.5 rebounds, while Wortmann produced 5.8 points and 5.8 rebounds a game.

A pair of sophomores, Kelsey Sanger (6.9 ppg, 4.5 apg) and Monica Arens (8 ppg, 4.8 rpg), will again play key roles, as will juniors Bre Allen (4.9 ppg), Allison Tramp (5.1

ppg) and Katie Petersen (3.8 ppg, 2.6 rpg).

For now, though, the Warriors are still battling through injuries to three players — part of a carryover from volleyball.

"When we get back to full strength, we'll be a very fun team to watch," head coach Aaron Losing

said. "We'll have a chance to be as good or better than last year, I think."

Any production from the rest of the reserves will certainly help the Warriors improve from a 1-loss season.

CROFTON | PAGE 13

NE Girls

From Page 11

ASSISTANTS: Tate Cunningham, Craig Wortmann
VITALS: Class C2, Sub-District C2-7, Mid-State Conference

LAST YEAR: The Trojans went 5-17 and lost four starters.

TOP PROSPECTS: Alli Walter (Sr., 6-0, C), Haley Becker (Sr., 5-7, F), Taylor Lammers (Jr., 5-10, F), Monica Arens (Jr., 5-10, F), Megan Leise (Jr., 5-7, F), Brianna Lammers (Jr., 5-7, G), Emily Morgan Fielmeier (Jr., 5-7, G), Lauren Steffen (So., 5-7, G)

NEWCOMERS: Mallorie Steffen (Fr., 5-9, G), Anna Reifenrath (Fr., 5-9, G)

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge

COACH: Nate Sims
VITALS: Class D1, Lewis and Clark Conference

LAST YEAR: The Bears went 16-7 in Class C2.

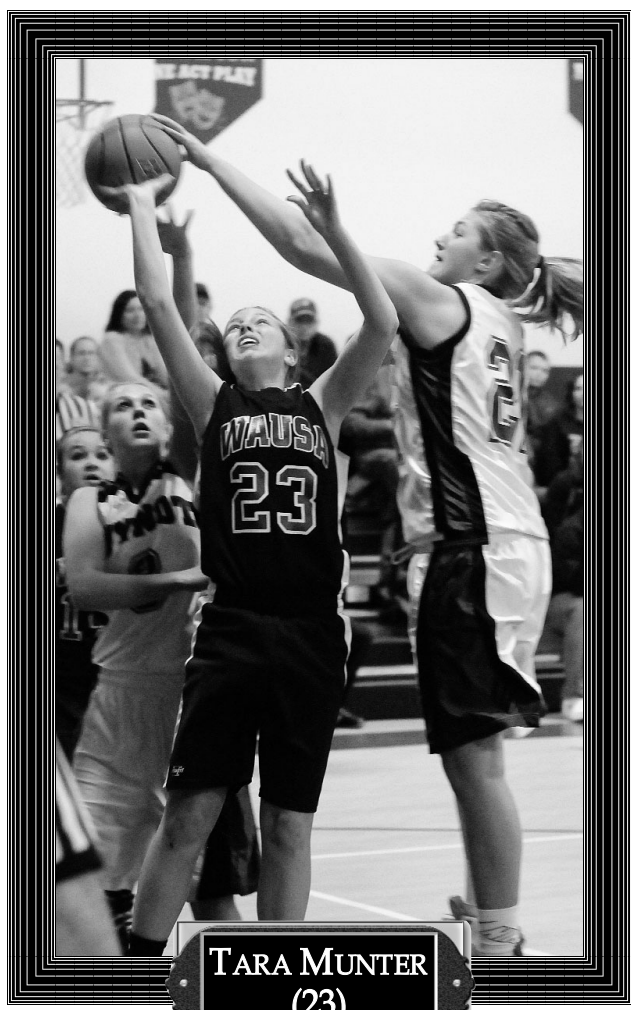
TOP PROSPECTS: Audra Corbit (Sr., 6-2, F, All-State, 11.3 ppg, 7.7 rpg), Ellie Arduser (Sr., 5-9, G, HM All-State, 9.5 ppg, 4.5 rpg), Katie Leapley (So., 6-2, F), Bryn Schutte (Fr., 5-9, G), Sydney Cunningham (Sr., 5-4, G), Katelyn Cook (So., 5-4, G), Emily Klooz (Jr., 5-7, F), Bayley Holloway (Jr., 5-7, F), Nicole Hanson (Fr., 5-4, G), Madysen Holloway (Fr., 5-6, G), McKenzie Ohlrich (Fr., 5-6, F), Brooke Young (Fr., 5-2, G), Chloe Hauptmann (Fr., 5-7, F), Ashley Wolfgram (Fr., 5-8, F)

Niobrara-Verdigre

CO-COACHES: Emily Janak, Chelsea Wagner
ASSISTANT: Paige Randa
VITALS: Class C2, Sub-District C2-8, Niobrara Valley Conference

LAST YEAR: The Cougars were 8-14 and graduated two All-Conference players.

TOP PROSPECTS: Reagan Larsen (Sr., 5-5, G, 2.8 ppg), Brittany Eisenhauer (Jr., 5-5, G, 8.5 ppg, 3 rpg, 1.8 apg), Kylee McManigal (Jr., 5-7, G/F, 6.5 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 2 apg), Hannah Stark (Jr., 5-7, G/F, 3.9 ppg), Danielle Beaudette (Jr.,



TARA MUNTER (23)

5-6, G, 2.8 ppg), Larissa McCordie (Jr., 5-6, G/F, 1.5 ppg), Alisa Hrbek (Jr., 5-5, G), Ashley Guenther (So., 5-10, F/C), Jace Fritz (So., 5-10, F/C)
NEWCOMER: Emily Knust (Fr., 6-1, F/C)

Ponca

COACH: Brady Stark-weather

ASSISTANTS: Eric Kloke, Ryan Olander

VITALS: Class C2, Lewis and Clark Conference

LAST YEAR: The Indians went 14-10.

TOP PROSPECTS: Elizabeth Watchorn (So., 5-7, G), MacKenzie Boyle (Jr., 5-6, G), Kianna Kramper (Sr., 5-8, G, All-Conference, 14 ppg), Han-

nah Albrecht (Sr., 5-9, G, 8 ppg), Rachel Bentz (So., 5-7, G), Abigail Van Dyke (So., 5-9, F), Cassandra Stowe (So., 5-3), Shelby Rickett (So., 5-5), Rachael Lux (Jr., 5-7), Tara Millard (Sr., 5-8), Kelsea Fethkenher (Jr., 5-9)

NEWCOMERS: Sadie Finnegan (So., 5-7, G), Emma Kneif (Fr., 5-5, G)

Randolph

COACH: Theresa Schnoor

ASSISTANTS: Brooke Anderson, Colin Schurman

VITALS: Class D1, Lewis and Clark Conference

LAST YEAR: Randolph finished 12-9. Nine athletes graduated from the squad last year. Randolph lost in the

sub-district finals last year.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Haley Schnoor (Sr., 5-5, G, 10 ppg, 5 apg, 4 rpg, All Conference), Elle Bermel (Jr., G, 8 ppg, All Conference), Katie Fye (Sr., G/F), Katelyn Backhaus (Jr., P, 5rpg), Megan Fink (Jr., P), Allie Thies (Jr., F/G), Madysen Andrew (Jr., F), Citie Lemmens (Jr., G)
TOP PROSPECT: Carlee Thies (Fr., 5-9, F)

Wausa

COACH: Terry Nelson
ASSISTANT: Mary Lingenfelter

VITALS: Class D2, Lewis and Clark Conference

LAST YEAR: The Lady Vikings went 9-14.

RETURNING STARTERS: Tori Clausen (6-0, All-Conference), Tara Munter (5-7, HM All-Conference), Krissy Kumm (5-4)

Wynot

COACH: Steve Wieseler

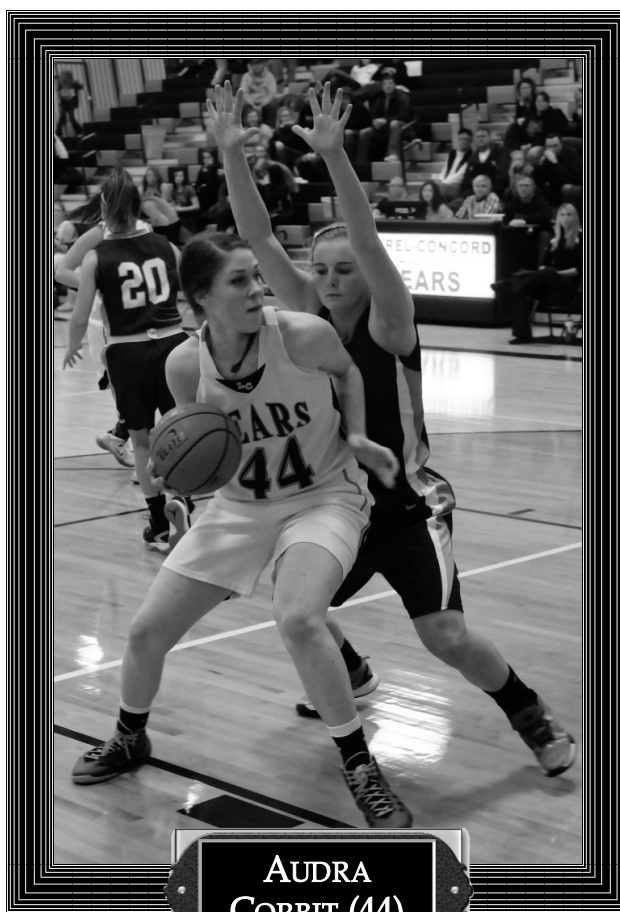
ASSISTANTS: Shelley Arkfeld, Heidi Magorian

VITALS: Class D2, Lewis and Clark Conference

LAST YEAR: The Lady Blue Devils, while going 24-6, won their fourth consecutive state championship. They graduated two players.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Kristi Bruening (Sr., 5-10, 3 ppg, 3 rpg), Jenna Heine (Sr., 5-6, 10.2 ppg, All-State), Danielle Wieseler (Jr., 5-3, 10.2 ppg, 2.5 apg, 3 spg), Olivia Wiesler (Jr., 5-3), Carissa Kuchta (So., 5-6, 3.6 ppg, 1.5 spg), Courtney Arkfeld (So., 5-8, 7.3 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 3 spg), Skylar Arkfeld (So., 5-8, 1.5 ppg, 1.3 rpg), Holly Lavos (So., 5-6)

NEWCOMER: Melissa Schram (Sr., 5-5)



AUDRA CORBIT (44)

Moody Motor Company
251 Spruce Ave. • Niobrara, NE
1-800-745-5650
(402) 857-3711
moodymotor.com

NIOBRARA-VERDIGRE

Boys' Basketball

Dec. 5.....at Elgin Public-Pope John	Jan. 20.....vs. North Central (V)
Dec. 9.....at O'Neill St. Mary's	Jan. 24.....at Creighton
Dec. 12.....vs. Clearwater-Orchard (V)	Jan. 27.....at Chambers-Wheeler Cen.
Dec. 13.....vs. Bloomfield(N)	Jan. 29.....vs. Santee (V)
Dec. 16.....at Ewing	Jan. 31-Feb. 7.....Niobrara Valley Conf.
Dec. 20.....vs. Wausa (N)	Feb. 10.....vs. West Holt (V)
Dec. 29-30.....N-V Holiday Tour. (V)	Feb. 13.....at Boyd County
Jan. 6-10.....Wausa Post-Hol. Tour.	Feb. 20.....vs. Neligh-Oakdale (N)
Jan. 13.....at Wynot	

Girls' Basketball

Dec. 4.....vs. Stuart (N)	Jan. 13.....at Wynot
Dec. 5.....at Elgin Public-Pope John	Jan. 16.....vs. Elkhorn Valley (N)
Dec. 9.....at O'Neill St. Mary's	Jan. 20.....vs. North Central (V)
Dec. 12.....vs. Clearwater-Orchard (V)	Jan. 24.....at Creighton
Dec. 13.....vs. Bloomfield(N)	Jan. 27.....at Chambers-Wheeler Cen.
Dec. 16.....at Ewing	Jan. 29.....vs. Santee (V)
Dec. 20.....vs. Wausa (N)	Jan. 31-Feb. 7.....Niobrara Valley Conf.
Dec. 29-30.....N-V Holiday Tour. (V)	Feb. 10.....vs. West Holt (V)
Jan. 6.....at Neligh-Oakdale	Feb. 13.....at Boyd County
Jan. 8-10.....Wausa Post-Hol. Tour.	

Wrestling (w/Hartington-Newcastle)

Dec. 6.....Creighton Invitational.....Creighton
Dec. 13.....North Bend Central Invitational.....North Bend
Dec. 20.....Osmond Inv. or Elgin Public/Pope John Inv.....Osmond or Elgin
Jan. 10.....Windside Invitational.....Windside
Jan. 17.....Battle Creek Invitational.....Battle Creek
Jan. 24.....Neligh-Oakdale Invitational.....Neligh
Jan. 31.....Plainview Invitational.....Plainview
Feb. 5.....Niobrara Valley Conference Tour.....Tilden
Feb. 7.....Clearwater-Orchard Invitational.....Clearwater

WYNOT

Boys' Basketball

Dec. 4.....vs. Bloomfield	Jan. 13.....vs. Niobrara-Verdigre
Dec. 5.....at Winside	Jan. 16.....at Winnebago
Dec. 12.....vs. Osmond	Jan. 17.....at Emerson-Hubbard
Dec. 16.....vs. Homer	Jan. 20.....at Allen
Dec. 19.....at Wausa	Jan. 27.....at Walthill
Dec. 23.....at Randolph	Jan. 30-Feb. 9.....L&C Conf. Tour.
Dec. 29-30.....Crofton Holiday Tour.	Feb. 10.....at Irene-Wakonda
Jan. 3.....at Ponca	Feb. 13.....at Hartington-Newcastle
Jan. 8-9.....Classic Tour.	Feb. 20.....vs. Laurel-Concord-Col.

Girls' Basketball

Dec. 4.....vs. Bloomfield	Jan. 10.....vs. Guardian Angels CC
Dec. 5.....at Winside	Jan. 13.....vs. Niobrara-Verdigre
Dec. 12.....vs. Osmond	Jan. 16.....at Winnebago
Dec. 16.....vs. Homer	Jan. 17.....at Emerson-Hubbard
Dec. 19.....at Wausa	Jan. 20.....at Allen
Dec. 23.....at Randolph	Jan. 27.....at Walthill
Dec. 29-30.....Crofton Holiday Tour.	Jan. 30-Feb. 9.....L&C Conf. Tour.
Jan. 3.....at Ponca	Feb. 10.....at Irene-Wakonda
Jan. 8-9.....Classic Tour.	Feb. 13.....at Hartington-Newcastle

Robert L. Olson
OLSON'S INSURANCE AGENCY
PO Box 227, 25414 Park Avenue St., Ste. 2, Niobrara, NE 68760
Bus. (402) 857-3404
Res. (402) 857-3337
Fax (402) 857-3824

Best of luck to our N - V Cougars!
402-668-2242

KEVIN'S PLUMBING SERVICE, LLC
Yankton
605-668-0177
Fordyce NE
402-357-3302
Kevin Zavadil
605-661-2894