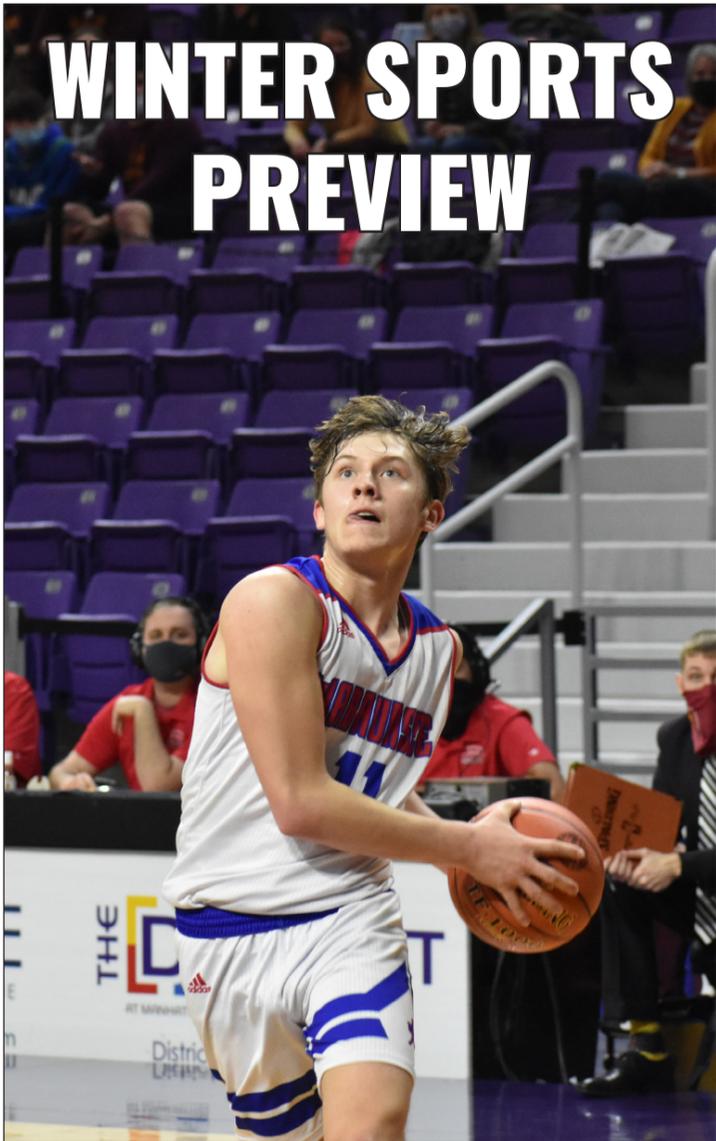




THE CHARGER



WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW



Clockwise from Left: Cade Oliver, Karli Meseke, Kara Hafenstine, Alex Beggs, Brayden Meseke.

Revenge Tour: boys basketball brings back fire from last years' state run

Lauren Schutter | sports editor

With success on his mind already, head coach Christian Ulsaker prepared well for his third season at Wabaunsee.

"I've already watched every game from last year, and I've keyed in on our returning starters just to see what their strengths and weaknesses are," Ulsaker said.

Everybody knows about this teams' previous success. After a "Cinderella Story" state appearance and a stunning victory over #1 seed Hoxie in the state tournament, the team still plans to out-do themselves.

"I expect to win our league and to get where we ended our season last year, but with a different outcome," junior Eli Oliver said.

Other players share a similar belief.

"I expect a lot. I expect to win a lot of games and compete for a state championship. We have a lot of players ready to play and step up that are also comfortable playing. We work hard in every practice, and everyone knows how close we were to hanging a championship banner last year," senior Brayden Meseke said.

The team will be returning starters Cade Oliver, Brayden Meseke, and Eli Oliver. These three, previously joined by Dawson Schultz and Tyler Lohmeyer, were known for the remarkable number of minutes they spent on the court. These guys were playing 30 minutes a

WINTER SPORTS TRIVIA

1. How many former Chargers are currently playing college basketball?
2. Which years did WHS win a state championship in basketball?
3. Who was the leading scorer for boys last season?
4. Who was the leading scorer for girls last season?
5. Who was the first state champion for WHS wrestling?
6. How many consecutive wins did the boys have before the championship game last season?
7. Who is the shortest and tallest player on the girls team?
8. What high school did each head coach play basketball for?
9. What winter sport currently has zero participants for 2021-22?
10. Which current girls basketball player has the most career starts?

Answers:
 1. 4 (Abby Oliver, Maddy Hutley, Karson Schultz, Jackson Frank).
 2. 1977 and 1986.
 3. Brayden Meseke.
 4. Lauren Schutter.
 5. Riley Tubbs.
 6. 6 wins.
 7. Taryn Maikie short Kaci Meseke.
 8. McPherson (Ulsaker) and Otis Bison (Keller).
 9. Girls wrestling.
 10. Kara Hafenstine.

game, but the coaches and the team believe this year will be different.

"This year I expect Ryan (Schutter), Logan (Clark) and Zach (Frank) to pick up the pieces of the seniors from last year. Also on the stretch, I expect Lanson (Parry) and Bryton (Reves) to help make the team go a little deeper," Ulsaker said.

Along with making the team deeper varsity-wise, the JV and C teams look to grow too.

"We have a big freshman class with seven or eight guys out. It's good to see large numbers, and I like to have the C team stay primarily freshmen," Ulsaker said.

About some key games to win, Ulsaker said "I think a key one's definitely Mission Valley. I want to keep that streak of not losing to Mission Valley alive. I tell all the boys that we don't lose to in-county rivals."

St. Marys will also be a big one, along with Lyndon and Jefferson County North, who will most likely be in our sub-state. I'd also love to get the 'monkey on our back' off with Rock Creek to start the year off."

The varsity, junior varsity, and C team will be making the trip to Axtell on Friday, starting off a season with a ton of potential.

GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM LOOKS TO CONTINUE ITS TRADITION OF SUCCESS DESPITE LOW NUMBERS

Emma Alderman | editor in chief

The girls basketball team is led by head coach Trevor Keller who has coached basketball at Wabaunsee for the past two years.

"The program has been to state the past three years and I think that we want to continue that tradition. When I took the job there was a tradition of success at Wabaunsee and I wanted to help continue that," Keller said.

Wabaunsee will have some

challenges to overcome this year though, one of the biggest being their low number of players. Currently there are twelve players on the roster for the team and one of those, senior Madisyn Havenstein, is injured. "If anyone is sick or hurt it makes it difficult in practice so that's definitely been a challenge but we have been making adjustments to our practice schedule. A positive though is that everybody is getting to do a lot of reps so they are learning a lot," Keller said.

Seven of the twelve players on the roster are returning players.

"We're going to have to play smart. We can't have players fouling out because we don't have enough other people to go in for them. Also wear your ankle braces so you don't get hurt," senior Kara Hafenstine said.

The team opens the season Friday at Axtell High School.

YOUNG WRESTLING TEAM LEAD BY NEW COACHES

Mayah Mumpower | news editor

The Wabaunsee Wrestling team is starting off the year with two new coaches.

Head coach Jamy Dunbar, previously a coach at Osage City, will be assisted by Tyler Douglass. Coach Dunbar is unsure of any changes that will be made with the program, as he is new to WHS.

"I do give emphasis on men-

tal toughness and hard wrestling and conditioning during each practice," Dunbar said.

The team returns five wrestlers, two of which wrestled varsity last year. Senior Marek Boatwright returns for his fourth year wrestling. The team has more members than last season, and with only one upperclassmen, the coaches are looking to build for the future.

"Currently we have 10 in the room but 15 total would be a goal to reach for next season," Dunbar said.

Sophomore Alex Beggs fell short at Regionals last year but is looking forward to being back.

"I'm looking forward to wrestling with my classmates and having a larger team than last year," Beggs said.

The team opens the season Saturday at Wamego, and will wrestle at Clay Center and Emporia before winter break.

THE CHARGER

"The mission of the Charger newspaper and related media is to inform the students and school community about relevant issues in a fair, accurate and timely manner, to advocate for all students and serve as an open forum for student free speech."

Read online at whscharger.com or follow @whscharger on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. Find the Senioritis podcast on iTunes or Spotify.

Send letters to the editor to whscharger@gmail.com.