

2021 Spring Sports

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PREVIEW

Special Section of the
COUNTY NEWS REVIEW



CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI BLUEJACKETS

I BRAHAM BOMBERS

Braham boys & girls golf led by seniors

by John Wagner

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Braham golf coach Lauren Kiesz is happy that the sport has returned to action this spring – if for no other reason than it will stop the teasing she regularly receives from her team.

“Whenever I start a sentence by saying, ‘Last season ...’ the kids are quick to remind me, ‘We didn’t have a season ‘last season,’” Kiesz said. “They appreciate that they do have a season this year after they didn’t have a season last year. Fortunately for me, they mean that as a joke.”

The boys and girls golf teams at Braham are very similar in that both will be led by a three-member senior class that hopes to receive reinforcements from younger players.

On the girls side, the defending Great River Conference champions return two seniors who helped earn that conference trophy in Jenna Bostrom and Tessa Burmaster, while fellow senior Hanna Sterling is looking forward to contributing to the varsity squad.

“They’re looking forward to actually having their senior season,” coach Lauren Kiesz said. “They have a good rapport with one another, and they’ve improved their games since the last time we had a golf season. They are confident entering the start of the season, and it’s a treat to have a senior season with them.”

Another member of that championship squad also returns in freshman Madison Davis, who worked her way onto the varsity by the end of her seventh grade year.

“We also have some younger girls who



Among the seniors on the Braham golf teams are, from left, Tessa Burmaster, Jenna Bostrom, Alex Londgren, Tyler Heikes and Kevin Laman. The other seniors for the Bombers are Hanna Sterling and Zach Yerke. *Submitted photo*

we’re hoping will show improvement over the season,” Kiesz said.

On the boys side, the three seniors are Zach Yerke, Alex Londgren and Tyler Heikes, with a fourth senior, Kevin Laman, having joined the program this spring.

“Zach, Alex and Tyler have played a lot of golf together and improved their

games during the hiatus,” Kiesz said. “Alex has really worked on his game the past couple of years, and Tyler is a much more confident and consistent golfer. And Kevin is an athlete who had played some golf when he was younger, and decided to rejoin the program.”

As with the girls, the boys program has a large group of junior varsity play-

ers who may earn a spot in the varsity lineup by the end of the year.

“There are a couple of boys and girls who may be ready to step forward as the season moves forward,” Kiesz said. “I’m excited that we have such a large group of young golfers who are ready to put in the work to rise to the occasion, hopefully this year and definitely in the future.”

Veteran squad returns for Braham baseball

by John Wagner

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While the Braham baseball team lost players from last season, coach Aitor Leniz is excited about the players who are returning for the Bombers this season.

“We probably will have 12 kids on the varsity this spring,” he said. “The good news is that, while we lost four seniors from last year, we had kids behind them.

We played a lot of sophomores and freshmen two years ago. ... When the issue is that you have more players than spots to fill, that’s a plus. I’ll take that problem every time.”

It helps that there are a number of familiar faces in the program.

“When you live in a small community like this, you know the kids from youth leagues and such,” Leniz said. “We know we have a good group of seniors and an exciting group of juniors, so it should be an exciting group to see.”

Leniz is pleased with the depth of pitching he has on his roster, a group that includes seniors John McFarlane and Hayden Lee as well as juniors Jonah Johnson, Easton Sexton and Kyle Warzecha along with sophomore Caleb Schusted.

“We’ll be solid at catcher, too, because Mac Nelson was our starter as a freshman,” Leniz said. “We’re excited to have him back because he’s very solid behind the plate.”

Defensively the Bombers will benefit

from the versatility of the players on the roster. That means a number of players may move to different positions based on the opponent as well as who is starting on the mound.

“For example, Jonah Johnson will start at first when he’s not pitching, and Kyle Warzecha will start at third when he’s not pitching,” Leniz said. “A lot of the time Blake Anderson will start at shortstop, and Caleb Schusted will see time at short. The lineup will be based a lot on who’s pitching.”