

Oscoda boys ready to battle in NSL Big Dipper

by Ben Murphy

OSCODA Ask seventh year Oscoda boys basketball head coach Mike Poland his thoughts on the North Star League Big Dipper; he feels like some familiar faces are going to be battling it out for the championship.

"I believe the top teams from last year will be chasing the title again," he said. "Tawas Area returns a significant amount of talent from their team last year and I expect them to be a contender this year as well."

Of course, if the familiar faces are fighting out in the league, that means Oscoda should be in the mix too, as they went 14-9 overall last year and



OSCODA BOYS BASKETBALL – Members of the 2025-26 Oscoda boys varsity took second in the conference. basketball team are, from left, back row: David Dion, Dustin Filipiak, Jaydyn Pu-Alcona won it last year, while kall, Cole Gerow, Hunter Vincenty-Cole, Jon Sexton and head coach Mike Poland; the Charlton Heston Academy front row: Tyler Kretchman, Crue Weisenstein, Reed Curley and Randey Eschen-See Owls, Page 6 burg. Missing from photo are assistant coaches Gavin Lueck and Thadd Spragg.

Juniors, sophomores to dominate lineup for TA boys

by Ben MurphyTAWAS CITY – No seniors, no problem. That's the hope anyways for the Tawas Area boys basketball team, as they look to their solid group of juniors and sophomores to lead the way this winter.

"I think we've been progressing pretty well, practices have been very competitive, so I've been pretty happy with the way all the guys have been pushing hard and working through the first part of the season," head coach Reuben Edwards said.

Returning from last year's team will be juniors Carson Selman, Aiden Smith, Preston Muckenthaler, Reuben Edwards, Truman Busch and Myles Parish; along with sophomore Cleon Young. First year varsity players will be juniors Jaxon



Photo by Ben Murphy

TAWAS BOYS BASKETBALL - Members of the 2025-26 Tawas Area varsity boys basketball team are, from left, back row: Kenidigo Williams, Jaxon Ulman, Carson Selman, Aiden Smith, Truman Busch and Gunner Selman; front row: Reuben Edwards, Nathan Shaver, Myles Parish, Leif Guilotel and Preston Muck-See Braves, Page 6 enthaler.

Hale boys basketball looks to tap into potential

by Ben Murphy

HALE – There's a definite path for success for the Hale boys basketball team. Fifth year head coach Andy Katterman can see that, and he's ready to get the season going to see how his squad can take shape, and hopefully find that path.

"We have the potential to be competitive this year, if the pieces fall in place," he said. We are fairly athletic, we have decent size, and a couple kids that can shoot. If we continue to improve and work hard, we should have a successful season.'

On the team this year will be seniors Brayden Jaremba, Hudson Riley Smith Wren and Wyatt Irwin; juniors Blake Chrivia, Jacob Shick (5.8 points



per game, 8.6 rebounds) and HALE BOYS BASKETBALL - Members of the 2025-@6 Hale boys varsity bas-Keigan Egresics (4.9 points, ketball team are, from left, back row: Hudson Riley Smith Wren, Keigan Egresics, Jacob Shick, Connor Runyan and Wyatt Irwin; front row: Blake Chrivia, See Hale, Page 7 Brayden Jaremba, Jason Kimmerer and Jayden Timlick.

Young, but talented W-P boys ready to roll

by Ben Murphy

WHITTEMORE – Numbers are up and so are expectations for the Whittemore-Prescott boys basketball team. After having only a varsity team for the last few seasons, they now have a junior varsity as well; and they have a whole bunch of underclassmen ready to make an impact.

"So far it is going good, we are young but we will learn as we go, for sure," head coach Ryan Lomason said. "We don't have many upperclassmen, one senior and one junior, the rest are underclassmen, but we are going to battle.'

The lone senior on the team is Blake Miller, while Blaine

Photo by Ben Murphy

CARDINAL BOYS BASKETBALL - Members of the 2025-26 Whittemore-Prescott boys varsity basketball team are, from left, head coach Ryan Lomason, Kyle Beach, Blake Miller, Brady Donaghy, Bow Lauria, Jordan Roberts, Blaine See WP, Page 5 Zuchnik, Scout Holshoe, Wesley Gawne, Carson Vohwinkle and Hunter Clayton.

Supplement to the losco County News-Herald and Oscoda Press - December 10, 2025

Oscoda wrestling looking for more success for 2025-26 season

by Ben Murphy

OSCODA – Tucker Whitley is set to enter his third year as the Oscoda wrestling coach. While what will happen this season is to be determined, the coach took some time to reflect on last year's special campaign.

'Last year was a great season for our young program," he said. "We were able to accomplish some major pre season goals, including bringing home a team district title for the first time in eight years. We had a lot of individual success along the way, but the kids were able to adopt a team first mentality, and that really fueled us until

Returning to the team will be seniors, Aiden Taylor and Michael Vega; juniors Zach Martin (state qualifier), Gene Smith, Sophia Mendyk, Brett Travis, Preston Nash and Xander Papke; along with sophomores Aiden Hutchings, Madden Perez (regional qualifier), Cadence Rodabaugh, Zeke Sutton and Trentyn Mich.

New to the team will be sophomore Neveah Jones and freshmen Austin Kellogg, Jack Williams, Ciera Arthuer, Hannah Thornton and Leila Lueck-

"Aiden Taylor and Michael Vega are our only seniors this year and they have taken over the role as captains for our team,



Photo by Ben Murphy

OSCODA WRESTLING - Members of the 2025-26 Oscoda varsity wrestling team are, from left, back row: Aiden Hutchings, Candace Rodabaugh, Hannah Thornton, Neveah Jones, Michael Vega, Zachary Martin, Brett Travis, Ezekiel Sutton, Jack Williams, Xander Papke-Stickney, Aiden Taylor, assistant coach Luke Williams, Ciara Arthur, assistant coach Jerry LeCureux, manager Landon Chesser and head coach Tucker Whitley; front row: Manager Jayce Pruitt, Trent Mich, Preston Nash, Austin Kellogg, Madden Perez, Sophia Mendyk, manager Ottis Merdzinski, manager Kodi Haski and manager Kellen Dault. Missing from photo are Gene Smith, Leila Lueckeman, Manager Bailei Lee, Manager Madison Swarthout, assistant coach Anthony Ward and assistant coach Christian Ward.

they lead by example and hold our room accountable," Whitley said. "We have a lot of kids that are still very new to the sport, and I believe they over achieve

"We have a very driven group of kids, who lack complacency. We are trying to make sure our practices are efficient, and we don't want to lose sight of how important the basics are.'

While they were excited to win the district trophy last year, they had to settle for second place in the North Star League. They'd really like to get on top of the mountain this winter.

Whittemore-Prescott will always bring out a tough team," Whitley said. "(W-P head coach) Russ Wilson does a great job with that program, and they reload every year. Mio is

another team that will be tough. They have a state champion in their lineup, and Mickey gets

the most out of his kids." Oscoda heads to Whitte-

See Wrestle, Page 6











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Winning tradition alive and well for Owl girls

by Ben Murphy

OSCODA – For quite some time now, the Oscoda girls basketball team has pretty much been a premier program in the area. The Lady Owls have won seven straight North Star League Big Dipper championships, and while they'll need to rely on some new faces this winter, they still feel pretty good about the lineup that they'll be rolling out.

The seven that we have will be good together but it may take some time to get our sophomores up to speed and knock the rust off Lillian Piotrowski," third year head coach Scott Lu-eck said. "Practices are great, we just have to figure out how much we need to get in early on. We have only (handful of) games before Christmas break so that will give us some extra practice time.

Returning to the team will be seniors Luella Whipkey (guard, 672 career points) and Emma Michaud (guard); and sophomores Ava Taylor, Lindy Kenyon, Isla Merdzinski and Aydria Kubik.

'This will be Luella's fourth year as a starter on varsity, she has been all-conference multiple times. She is a very good defensive player and is close to being the school record holder in career steals," Lueck said.

"Emma will be a third year starter at point guard for us. She was first team all-conference last year. She is also a very good defensive player and sets the tone for us on defense. She plays her role as point guard as good as we could hope for.

Ava, Lindy, Isla and Aydria all earned varsity letters as freshmen playing as JV players that played the occasional fifth quarter. All are on varsity this year and will be major contribu-

Senior Lillian Piotrowski will play her first year of varsity; she did not play as a junior, but was on the JV team as a freshman and sophomore.

'We are very excited to have her back, she is a hard worker that understands the game and will be another fierce defender



Photo by Ben Murphy

OSCODA GIRLS BASKETBALL - Members of the 2025-26 Oscoda varsity girls basketball team are, from left, back row: Ashley Rowden, Caroline Meyer, Emma Micahud, Luella Whipkey, Lillian Piotrowski and Lindy Kenyon; front row: Ava Taylor, Lindsie Moeller, Aydria Kubik and Isla Merdzinski.

that we love." Lueck said. "We will have four sophomores on varsity and a base roster of seven players. We will have some JV players dress for fifth quarter availability. Ava, Lindy, Isla and Aydria are all very impressive early in the season.

"We did get some practices and scrimmages back in June and helped them immensely. They have also had very good off season attendance with our workouts and have shown significant improvement.'

Of course, Whipkey and Michaud have been major pieces to the Lady Owls' success in their time on varsity. They'll probably be leaned on even harder this year to lead the way.

"(Those two) are our captains and will certainly lead us with the way they play," Lueck said. "We have been blessed these past two years with good players but also in that they play hard. Whipkey and Michaud are great leaders by example with their effort and discipline. If our younger girls emulate their effort we will have a very good season."

Oscoda hosted Standish-Sterling on Monday to open the season and they welcome in Bay City Central today (Wednesday). They also host Hillman on

Friday and they'll make the trip for Valley Lutheran on Dec. 19.

We like to focus our practices on playing fast, which includes a lot of conditioning and full court drills," Lueck said. "The sophomores are familiar with what we do, we just need to get more reps as a whole unit with five new players.

"(We want to) play hard, play well and learn. We need to grow together as a team; the sooner the better, and the coaches feel we are off to a good start.'

And as for defending their NSL Big Dipper title, Lueck knows that what teams they'll have to beat to keep on top.

'Tawas will be a very good foe for us and a must win if we want to win the league," he said. "They have several returning players that could become a really good team. I would never pick against us because I think our guard play is going to be very good and at times, we will play four guards.

That being said, Tawas has a couple post players that are really good and they will be better at the guard position this year. Rogers City and Alcona also have some nice players returning but we think the conference championship will be decided with Tawas and Oscoda."



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Good times continue to roll for Oscoda Owl bowling teams

by Ben Murphy

OSCODA - The Oscoda bowling teams had great seasons last winter. The Owls expect some good things again this winter. That's how it goes for the Oscoda bowling pro-

The girls won the Huron Shores Bowling Conference last year, and finished in 14th at the state finals. They have a bunch of new faces this year, but hope to remain competitive.

"We are a young team," head coach Jennifer Birkenbach said.

"I only have three returning bowlers, they did not get a lot of playing time last year. This is definitely going to be a year of growth and learning.

The three returning members are sophomores Emily Birkenbach, Caylee Black and Leah Beckton. The newcomers are juniors Leila Lueckman and Carley Cleary as well as freshman Harley Wilder.

This year Emily Birkenbach is someone to bring the team together," Birkenbach said. "She has a fun loving positive attitude. She doesn't bowl conventionally, she throws a backup ball but does so fairly well. She shows that you don't have to fit a mold to be a good bowler."

The Lady Owls hope to get the most out of their experience limited roster, as they compete once again in the Huron Shores Bowling Conference.

'Right now, at practice we are focusing on consistency, most of these girls have never bowled competitively," Birkenbach said. "I want these girls to

have fun. That is the main thing. If they are having fun, they will be more likely to try and want to do good and improve.'

The boys team will be led by Josh Obeada, now in his fifth year with the team. They had a solid season as well last year, narrowly missing out on the state finals.

"At first, I had a feeling this year would be an entire rebuild with a lot of brand new bowlers as I had several seniors graduate last year," Obeada said. "However, after having a few weeks of practice, I have noticed our potential is a lot higher than originally expected.

'Every one of my new seniors have done some form of bowling over the past year and have already established a lot of the basics. Last year we had a couple of high performing bowlers but this year we have the potential to have several high performing bowlers."

Returning bowlers this year will be seniors Casey League and Ares Gavina-Hernandez; junior Jake Travis; and sophomores Isaac Olvera and Keegan Kellstrom.

New to the team will be seniors Aaron Bennett, Riely Wilson, Wyatt Wasmuth, Aindrew Willhite, George Kirby and Tanner Yats; and freshmen Ryan Opperman, Ty Lumbardo, Kyrian Skandarsky and Alexis Velazquez-Cruz.

"The team leaders this year will definitely be Jake Travis

See Bowl, Page 6



Photo by Ben Murphy OSCODA BOYS BOWLING - Members of the 2025-26 Oscoda boys varsity bowling team are, from left, back row: Casey League, Ryan Opperman, Riley Wilson, Aaron Bennett, Tanner Yats and Aindrew Willhite; middle row: Wyatt Wasmuth, George Kirby, Keagan Kellstrom, Issac Olvera and Jake Travis; front row: Ty Lumbardo. Missing from photo are Alexis Velazquez-Cruz, Ares Gavina-Hernandez and Kyrian Skandarsky.



Photo by Ben Murphy

OSCODA SWIM AND DIVE - Members of the 2025-26 Oscoda varsity swim and dive team are, from left, back row: Sawyer Kirby, Alex Clarke, Emmett Huhn, Jack Garner, Orin Smith, Aven King and Mark Fullerton; front row: Caleb Clare, Drew Gallahar, Logan Pittman, Liem Flannery, Adrian Delcourt, Eduardo Gonzalez, Logan Heiden, Thatcher King and Jax Wahl.

Oscoda boys swim team has solid numbers

by Ben Murphy OSCODA – The Oscoda swim and dive team had a solid season last winter, winning four Independent Swim Conference duals and losing four. They have a really big group for the team this year, including six returning members.

"Our season has started out extremely strong," third year head coach Ellen Doherty said. "We're already hitting the training hard for our returning swimmers. New swimmers are quickly progressing with technical improvements daily."

Returning swimmers this vear will be senior Jack Garner (sprints, butterfly), juniors Emmett Huhn (diver, freestyle), Alex Clarke (distance, breaststroke) and sophomores Logan Pittman (breaststroke) and Logan Heiden (individual medley).

New to the team will be junior Orin Smith, sophomores Jax Wahl, Edwardo Gonzalez, Liem Flannery, Mark Fullerton, Adrian Delcourt and freshmen Drew Gallahar, Caleb Clare, Aven King and Thater King. Oscoda will have five Tawas Area students on the team thanks to their co-op agreement; those being Garner, Whal, Aven King, Thatcher King and Fullerton.

Team goals are focused on improving our Independent Swim Conference standings and increasing the number of top eight swims at (the ISC championship meet)," Doherty said. "Individual goals vary from learning strokes to working towards swimming state times.

"Our hopes for this season are to drastically drop times. We have a few athletes that can achieve under one minute for our 100 freestyle times which helps the team tremendously in regards to the 400 free relay and more."

Oscoda was at John Glenn on Saturday, they host John Glenn on Thursday and they will also be at home to take on Alpena on Thursday, Dec. 18.

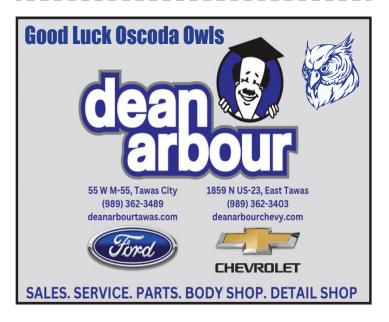
'Our hopes for the first few meets are to develop and determine team leaders, get baseline swims, and identify where improvements are required," Doherty said.











Things off to good start for Tawas Area wrestling team

by Ben MurphyTAWAS CITY – If the opening matches of the season are any indication, the Tawas Area wrestling team could be in store for a fun winter. The Braves opened the year at a tri-meet at Alcona on Wednesday, and they defeated Oscoda 42-40 and took down host Alcona, 47-33.

"It's going good, a lot of new kids so I didn't really know what to expect going into the first meet, but we came out with two wins so that was a positive,' head coach Andrew Challenger

The Braves have a good sized roster this winter, and they are experiencing a big increase in the amount of girls on

"It's a little bit more challenging having a lot more girls, just because now it is like basically coaching two teams," Challenger said. "Now we have enough girls for a boys team and a girls team, so we can put a lot more girls meets on our schedule and see if we can get more girls to states this year. We have a lot of boys too, so hopefully our end goal is to make it to the state finals. We are shooting for a good outcome and it looks pretty promising so far."

Competing for the Braves this season will be Aleigha



Photo by Ben Murphy

TAWAS WRESTLE - Members of the 2025-26 Tawas Area varsity wrestling team are, from left, back row: head coach Andrew Challenger, Jay Challenger, Larson Manne, Gavin Caldwell, Ryder Dixon, Dominik Quarters, Andy Oliver, Sean Donaghy, James Forbush, Ferdinand Pinto Cabrera, Lucas Rousseau, Matthew Martin and Joey Kacir; front row: Aleigha Ashworth, Marley Buchanan, Audrey Loew, Chloe Matwyuk, Mia Marciniak, Julia Slack, Jasmine Voss and Danyelle Morgan. Missing from photo are Chloe Lumley, Quinton Tipton, Connor Wallace, Joleen Whitford and assistant coach Anthony Lesko.

Ashworth, Marley Buchanan, Gaven Caldwell, Jay Challenge, Ryder Dixon, Sean Donaghy, James Forbush, Joey Kacir, Audrey Loew, Chloe Lumley, Larson Manne, Mia Marciniak, Matthew Martin, Chloe Matwyuk, Danyelle Morgan, Andrew Oliver, Ferdinand Pinto Cabrera, Dominik Quarters, Lucas Rousseau, Julia Slack, Quinton Tipton, Jasmine Voss, Connor Wallace and Joleen

Whitford.

The Braves head to Whittemore-Prescott today (Wednesday) and they will be at W-P again on Wednesday, Dec. 17.

"I think we have a good shot at taking conference this year," Challenger said of the North Star League. "You always have Whittemore-Prescott as a tough opponent but I think this year we have a good shot at hopefully beating them and taking

conference, that's the plan. We are just focusing on getting better every practice, every meet, we just always want to better

ourselves. Everyone is just focusing on that and taking it one meet at a time.'



Photo by Ben Murphy

TAWAS GIRLS BASKETBALL – Members of the 2025-26 Tawas Area girls varsity basketball team are, from left, back row: assistant coach Jeff Seyfried, assistant coach Carley Bolen, Gia Lesneski, Quinn Seyfried, Hailey Felske, Kaitlyn Swales, Brynn Montie, assistant coach Emily Lange and head coach Jason Woelke; front row: Kelsey Look, Hannah Potts, Teresa Dalman, Amelia Herbolsheimer and Vivian Malewska.

Expectations continue to rise for Tawas girls

by Ben MurphyTAWAS CITY – They return a veteran core. They've got some newcomers that should make an impact too. If everything lines up the way the Tawas Area girls basketball team hopes, they could be in store for a special winter

"At the beginning of the year we had all of the girls on the team write down some team goals they have for this season, all of the girls and coaches believe we have the talent this year to win a conference championship," second year head coach Jason Woelke said. "It will not

"Although Oscoda lost some important players from last season's team, they still have some key returning players, two returning all conference players in Luella Whipkey and Emma Michaud. They are well coached and will not give up their conference crown easily. Alcona and Rogers City also are very well coached teams that have some returning players on their team.

"We also want to compete for a district championship. Roscommon, last year's district champion, has the main core of their team returning and will

be tough, but again we believe that the combination of returning players we have along with some of the new girls added to this team that we can compete with anybody.

The Lady Braves finished last year 13-9 overall and fincond in the North Star League Big Dipper with an 8-2 mark. Seven players are back from that squad.

"So far this season I have been really happy with how the girls have performed in practice," Woelke said. "They have really showed strong teamwork and a willingness to push each other hard in practice and a desire to get better.

'Over Thanksgiving weekend we had a great opportunity to scrimmage other teams at Midland Dow and performed very well against two teams that were in the Division 3 quarterfinals last year (Sanford Meridian and Sandusky) and also against a strong Saginaw Valley Lutheran squad.

The girls showed great growth during the scrimmages and really improved throughout the day. We have a lot of returning players from last season with some solid new additions.

Returning to the team will

be seniors Kelsey Look (guard, forward), Hailey Felske (forward), Kaitlyn Swales (center) and Hannah Potts (guard); juniors Quinn Seyfried (forward, 7.5 points per game, 8.5 rebounds) and Brynn Montie (center, 4.1 points, 5.4 rebounds); and sophomore lia Herbolsheimer (guard).

New to the team will be juniors Vivian Malewska (forward) and Teresa Dalman (guard); and freshman Gia Lesneski (guard).

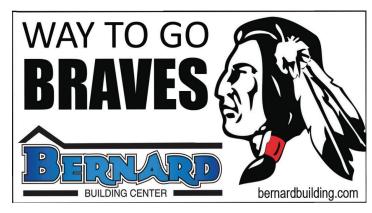
"Brynn and Quinn are two returning starters from last season, Brynn is an incredible defensive player who controls the paint really well and Quinn is a great rebounder who knows how to score the ball really well," Woelke said. "The four returning seniors contributed significantly to last year's team. Kelsey is a great defender whose hustle gets us a lot of extra possessions. Hailey is a solid rebounder and a good defensive player who has a nice outside shot. Kaitlyn finishes well around the basket and also rebounds well. Hannah is so extremely quick who also makes a lot of hustle plays to get steals

See Hoops, Page 5



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Tawas bowling teams have improved numbers

by Ben MurphyTAWAS CITY – The Tawas Area bowling teams are all set for the new season, and they'll be once again be led by longtime head coaches Allen and Kim Miller.

Kim Miller will be leading the girls, who hope to be able to compete as a team, after rolling one short last winter.

"We only had four girls last year, we will hopefully have five girls this year," she said. "We had two girls graduate last year."

Returning bowlers for the team include senior Paisley Marthaler and sophomore Addison Abbott. New to the team will be senior Claire Lian and freshmen Lilly Hart and Olivia Collier.

"I feel that the girls will have a much better year this year," Miller said. "We are seeing great improvements and having a full girls team will definitely help. (The plan is) to have fun and have a great season."

The boys' team were on the young side last year, and they're hoping for some more success this season.

"I think the boys have matured some from last year and are taking the game a little more serious," Allen Miller said.

Returning for the boys team will be seniors Aiden Rousseau, Lucas MacEwen, junior Seth

HOOPS

Continued from Page 4

and extra possessions. Finally, Amelia is a returning varsity player from last year that plays very hard and aggressive and knows how to score in transition very well."

As for the newcomers, they'll make an impact as well.

"Gia is a freshman this year but she is a very solid point guard that can score and pass really well, she knows how to get the ball to other girls in a position to help them score. Teresa is coming up from a very solid JV team from last year, who handles the ball well and has a very nice outside shot. Finally, Vivian is also coming up from the JV team who is a solid rebounder who can finish inside well also. Overall, I expect this team to continue to grow the success from last season as a program."

Tawas hosted Houghton Lake on Monday, they hosted AuGres on Tuesday, they head for Alpena on Thursday and play up at Hillman on Wednes-

"Our first week of the season is very busy, we play three games in four nights," Woelke said. "Our first game of the season is home against Houghton Lake, we hope to have a strong start to the season and continue to get better each game. Our second game is against a solid AuGres team who had 16 wins last season and returns many of their key players. Finally, we will play our first game on the road against Division 1 Alpena school. So, we jump right into the season with some solid games to get us ready for the conference season after Christmas break."

"Overall, I am really excited for this season," he added. "This team is showing a lot of potential to be really good this season. I am really happy that the girls are working together and the team atmosphere they have created in practice. They are very focused and determined to continue and grow on the successes we had from last season."

Brinkman and sophomores Luke Karr, Jacob Schoendaller, Hunter Smith and Levi Lossing. New to the team will be sophomore Maxwell Callija.

'Karr and MacEwen (will be leaders) because the other players listen to them and they understand the game quite well,"

Miller said. "(We want to) see the boys play their best and always show good sportsmanship.

Bowling action began on Saturday at Hi-Skore Lanes in West Branch, and they'll head for Thunder Bowl Lanes in Alpena this coming Saturday.



Photo by Ben Murphy

TAWAS BOYS BOWL - Members of the 2025 boys varsity bowling team are, from left, head coach Allen Miller, Levi Lossing, Maxwell Callija, Luke Karr, Hunter Smith, Jacob Schoendaller, Aiden Rousseau, assistant coach Michelle Rousseau and Lukas MacEwen. Missing from photo is Seth Brinkman.



Photo by Ben Murphy

TAWAS GIRLS BOWL - Members of the 2025 girls varsity bowling team are, from left, assistant coach Marcie McClellan, Claire Liang, Addie Abbott, Olivia Lossing, Paisley Marthaler, head coach Kim Miller and Lilly Hart.





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Continued from Page 1

Zuchnik is the junior. Sophomores on the squad are Kyle Beach, Wesley Gawne, Jordon Roberts and Hunter Clayton and freshmen on the team will be Carson Vohwinkle, Brady Donaghy, Scout Holshoe and Bow Lauria.

"Every year I'm excited because I enjoy watching these kids grow from where they start and develop," Lomason said. "We are learning as we go and we are getting to where I can see their improvements from last year to this year, and it is always nice to see that.'

The Cardinals went 1-21 last year, but they feel like they'll be able to pick up quite a few more wins this winter.

"To have a good season I think what needs to happen is we need to keep our intensity up and we need to play as a team with good passing and rebounding and battle together," Lomason said.

W-P has already had three games and they hosted Posen on Tuesday, they host Hillman on Dec. 15 and they welcome in AuGres on Dec. 16.

"I'm always looking to see what kind of intensity they can bring, just to see how they react when adversity gets in the way," Lomason said. "It is always fun to see how that starts out during the season. It's a little early to tell what is going to go down, I'm just eager to dig in and see what we can do for the year. I enjoy doing it and seeing these kids develop and grow."





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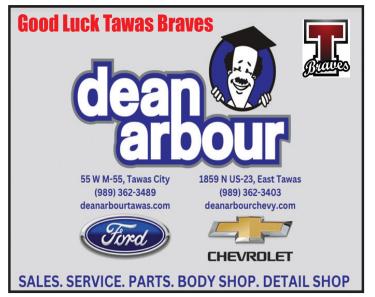




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Whittemore-Prescott girls ready for year under new head coach

by Ben Murphy WHITTEMORE year head coach Lindsey Daniels has seen her Whittemore-Prescott girls basketball team put in the work behind the scenes. Now she's ready to see what her Lady Cardinals can do with game action officially starting up.

"For the first few games of the season, I hope to see the team apply the skills and strategies we have been practicing in a game setting," she said. "I want players to gain confidence, communicate effectively on the court, and demonstrate teamwork and effort, regardless of the outcome.

"My goal is for the team to learn from each game, identify areas for improvement, and build a positive, supportive mindset that will carry us through the rest of the season."

The Lady Cardinals went 6-17 last year, and they'll return

senior Alivia Sheehan (post); juniors Kylee Mead (point guard) and Kylie LaFreniere (forward, guard); and sophomores Arianna Heska (post), Kylie Oliver (forward) and Lillian Vaughn (forward).

"Some of the team leaders I have chosen are Alivia Sheehan, Kylee Mead, and Kylie LaFreniere," Daniels said. "Alivia, as our senior, exemplifies kindness, compassion, and natural leadership. Her ability to encourage and support her teammates makes her a strong role model for the rest of the

"Mead and LaFreniere are both fierce, dedicated leaders who consistently demonstrate a strong work ethic and a desire to see the team succeed. Their determination and high expectations help push the team to grow, improve, and reach its full potential."

New to the team will be



Photo by Ben Murphy

CARDINAL GIRLS BASKETBALL – Members of the 2025-26 Whittemore-Prescott girls varsity basketball team, are, from left, Lillian Dietzel, Brynn Wanks, Alivia Sheehan, Arianna Heska, Kylie LaFreniere, Sydney Daniels (holding basketball, manager) Kylee Mead, Kaylynn Ritter, Kylie Oliver, Lillian Vaughn and head coach Lindsey Daniels.

freshmen Brynn Wanks (point guard, post), Kaylynn Ritter (forward) and Lillian Dietzel

"Two of our emerging young leaders are Brynn Wanks and Kaylynn Ritter," Daniels said.

"Their dedication to the game and their drive to improve, not just individually, but as teammates, make them strong role models and valuable contributors to the future of our program.'

The Cardinals do like what they've been able to do so far during their early practices; as their first contests rapidly approach.

"My early thoughts on this year's team are incredibly positive," Daniels said. "While we may be small in numbers, we are strong in heart, determination, and work ethic. I am confident that through effort, teamwork, and steady growth, we will become a competitive group that continually improves throughout the season.

"The team has been focusing on building a strong foundation through conditioning, ball-handling drills, and targeted passing and shooting practice. These areas have helped strengthen our fundamentals and improve our overall efficiency on the court.'

W-P hosted Posen on Tuesday, they stay at home to take on Atlanta on Friday and they have another home game on Tuesday, when they welcome in AuGres.

'Team goals could include improving individual skills such as shooting, passing, and defense, developing strong teamwork and trust among players, maintaining a competitive mindset in games, and demonstrating sportsmanship on and off the court," Daniels said. "Additionally, aiming to increase conditioning and stamina while enjoying the game can be an overarching goal for the season.

"Individual goals focus on each player improving specific skills and becoming a stronger contributor to the team. Examples include increasing shooting accuracy, improving ballhandling and passing skills, enhancing defensive abilities, building stamina and conditioning, developing confidence on the court, and learning to make smarter decisions during game play. Players can also set personal goals for leadership, teamwork, and communication to positively impact on the overall team dynamic.'



Courtesy photo

CARDINAL GIRLS BOWLING – Members of the Whittemore-Prescott varsity girls bowling team are, from left, Reese Lomason, Mollee Lomason, Laikin Gielda, Lily Trevarrow, Alexis Babcock, Islas Smith, Cadence Smith, Josie Smith and JorJa Garno. Missing from photo is head coach Vicki Barnes.

BRAVES

Continued from Page 1

Ulman and Nathan Shaver and sophomores Gunner Selman, Leif Guilotel and Kenidigo Williams.

"I think they've been more improved this year, going through last year the majority of them know what it is like to play at the varsity level," Edwards said. "Really, us being more physical, that is where as sophomores we lacked, and this year I have seen more physicality. They've been progressing and I think we will be more prepared this year on the var-

The Braves finished last season 5-16 overall and 2-8 in the North Star League Big Dipper.

'Last year we finished second to last (in the league), so we look at it as we have a lot of work to do," Edwards said. "(We are not) looking past anybody, every game that comes our way, we want to put our best foot forward in that game and that is how I look down the road. Every team in the league, they play hard, they all want to win and we have to match that same energy."

Tawas had one game last week and they also played up at Rogers City on Tuesday in their first NSL Big Dipper game. They make the trip for Hillman on Thursday, they host Alpena on Friday for their home opener and they welcome in Hale on Monday.

"Our first games, we will feel things out, "Edwards said. "We will probably make mistakes, but we are looking to start the year off better than last year. We will see what happens.



Photo by Ben Murphy

OSCODA GIRLS BOWLING - Members of the 2025-26 Oscoda girls varsity bowling team are, from left, Harley Wild-Carley Cleary, Leila Lueckman, Leah Beckton, Emily Birkenbach and Caylee Black.

OWLS

Continued from Page 1

and Rogers City were up near Cole Gerow (shooting guard). the top, too.

"We need to find ways to replace our five graduating seniors from last season, all of them had extensive varsity level experience," Poland said. "Our young guys will need to step up and fill those roles as quickly as

"We were second in our league the last two years and would like to get a conference championship and take a run at the district championship title again this year."

Returning to the team will be seniors Randey Eschenburg (forward), David Dion (guard, forward), Dustin Filipiak (center) and Tyler Kretchman (guard); and juniors Crue Weisenstein (point guard) and

"Our six returning players will need to be our leaders as they are all experienced with the varsity level," Poland said. "Senior leadership is a must, Dustin and Randey both filled starting roles last year and will need to be leaders on the floor. Crue was our back up point guard and will need to take the reigns coming off a very successful sophomore season.'

New to the team will be junior Hunter Vincenty-Cole (center), sophomores Reed Curley (point guard) and Jon Sexton (forward) and Jaydyn Pukall (shooting guard).

'We are young but have good speed and athleticism," Poland said. "Our three underclassmen are filled with a ton of

potential and Hunter Vincenty-Cole joins us for his junior year and brings his experience as stand out football and track athlete. We will lean on him extensively to fill some of the voids of our senior class."

Oscoda had two games last week and they were also at Fairview on Tuesday and play at home against Posen on Monday.

(We're focused on) getting into basketball shape, getting as many shots up as possible, and fine tuning our offense and defense has been our early focal points," Poland said. "We want to stay healthy, gain as much experience possible, and be ready to take a run at the conference schedule after the Christmas

WRESTLE

Continued from Page 2

more-Prescott today (Wednesday), they'll head for Grayling on Saturday and return to W-P on Wednesday, Dec. 17 for a North Star League meet.

"Mental toughness (is key)," Whitley said. "This is a long and tough season, and our kids will face adversity. The adversity will not define us, but how we respond will."

BOWL

Continued from Page 3

and Casey League as they are upperclassmen bowlers from last year," Obeada siad. "They both know how everything works and operates and can be trusted to make decisions when needed. We've spent some time working through the basics and working on how to stay more consistent.

"Just recently I had the boys golfing at practice and it was eye-opening for them to see the importance of being able to make corner pin spares. They made it clear it's not the most enjoyable thing to do but also understood why we need to do

The bowling season began on Saturday at Hi-Skore Lanes in West Branch, while they return to play this coming Saturday at Thunderbowl Lanes in Alpena.

"I'm just hoping the boys can

find a rhythm during the first few matches and get some confidence going into the season,' Obeada said. "It would be nice to see some wins early, but also not a big deal if we fall short.

"The last thing I'd like to point out is the fact that bowling has seen a notable increase in participation. I've been worried as the years go on that I would have issues filling the team but each year I'm seeing more and more interest. I had 15 kids come out to tryouts which is the most I have ever had before.

"It's also awesome to see them continue to have passion for the sport after high school and this is seen through them joining adult leagues after they graduate. I currently bowl against five of my past student bowlers who have stuck around Oscoda and it's just a cool thing to see."

Hale girls anxious to see what they have this year

by Ben MurphyHALE – Typically, Hale girls basketball head coach Joe Kimmerer likes to use a preseason scrimmage as an early measuring stick on where his team is at before their first contests begin. He wasn't able to do that this year though, as their scrimmage was canceled due to weather, and that leaves the veteran coach a bit uneasy.

"I feel like we are not getting a lot of traction yet, part of that is we haven't been able to do a lot of live play so far," he said. "I'm hoping that once we get to games we can get our sea legs. Maybe it is just me being worried about not seeing live play against someone else.

"I'm confident that with the games under the belt of my two seniors and my young core that has a lot of minutes, I am confident that we will be OK. It is just getting up to game speed and game play.

Last year the team finished 17-6 overall; one of the best seasons in program history.

Returning to the team will be seniors Ali Beebe (center) and Callie Hicks (guard, Alpena Community College commit, nearing 1,000 career points); juniors Ciara Kiesler (forward) and Isabella Barkholz (guard); sophomores Anella Barclay (guard, forward) and Aleese Kimmerer (guard); and freshmen Morgan Beebe (guard) and Trinity Shick.

New to the team are senior Mara Cabedo, sophomore Jasmine Maguire and freshmen Payton Kesler and Sophie Cole.

"I think if we can keep getting the consistent play from Callie and Ali and our young group brings a little bit more, I think we can be pretty tough to beat," Kimmerer said.

The Eagles finished second in the North Star League Little Dipper last winter; competing in a tight battle with league champ Mio and third place Au-Gres. Those three are more than

HALE

Continued from Page 1

6.7 rebounds); and sophomores Jason Kimmerer, Connor Runyan and Jayden Timlick.

We have some players who have the potential to really step up and lead on and off the court," Katterman said. "This is something our coaching staff will be monitoring as the season begins."

The Eagles finished last year 7-13 overall and went 5-7 in the North Star League Little Dipper.

The Little Dipper runs through Hillman (four straight league champs)," Katterman said. "I think Mio and Posen should look to compete at the top as well. We will look to compete each night and see where we stand.'

Hale has had three games already and they return to action on Thursday, when they host Rogers City. They also make the trip to Tawas Area on Dec. 15 and on Dec. 18 they play at home against Fairview.

'(We're focused on) the basics," Katterman said. "We've been working hard at practice, paying attention to details, and improving our skills. (We want) just to compete each day. Whether it be practice or games, we need to compete and improve each day. Some of our team goals this year are to compete, improve each day, and for each of us to do our job. We hope to work hard, compete, and grow as a team."

likely the teams to beat in their part of the conference again this

"I think those three teams should be at the top of the league and should be battling each other and I'm pretty excited about it," Kimmerer said. 'We had pretty much a record last year for most wins in the girls' program history at Hale and I hope to be right there again and be competing for a league title again and competing for a district title again.'

Hale hosted the Charlton Heston Academy on Tuesday to open the season, they head for Hillman on Friday and they host Rogers City on Tuesday.

The first game I just want to be solid, come out and limit our mistakes and work through not having a scrimmage," Kimmerer said. "The second game, traveling to Hillman is never easy, Hillman is no slouch that game could go either way.

"I hope that we can go up



Photo by Ben Murphy

Good Luck

HALE GIRLS BASKETBALL - Members of the 2025-26 Hale girls varsity basketball team are, from left, back row: Ciara Kiesler, Morgan Beebe, Mara Cabedo, Anella Barclay, Ali Beebe, Trinity Shick and Isabella Barkholz; front row: Payton Kesler, Jasmine Maguire, Callie Hicks, Aleese Kimmerer and Sophie Cole.

and have a good night of playing solid and getting an opportunity to win on the road in an early Little Dipper game would



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Whittemore-Prescott wrestling aims to stay at the top for new year

by Ben MurphyWHITTEMORE The Whittemore-Prescott wrestling team has been the elite program for quite some time now. The Cardinals continued that trend last year, winning their sixth straight North Star League championship.

While they had their six straight district championship streak snapped, they still had a great year and they hope for that success to continue this winter, as they look for a different cast to lead the way.

"It has been going good, we have a lot of new kids and underclassmen," head coach Russ Wilson said.

On the team this year will be Katie Burr, Nathan Cloum, Miley Crain, Silica Goodman, Jayden Goupil, Allen Green, Anthony Green, Ella Green, Carina Harper, Dorothy Jarrell, Logan Jenkins, Braelynn Kool, Yvonne Laskie, Travis Marr, Tyler Page, Kaylynn Rit-



Photo by Ben Murphy

CARDINAL WRESTLE - Members of the 2025-26 Whittemore-Prescott varsity wrestling team are, from left, back row: Tyler Page, Silas Williamson, Jayden Goupil, Noah Ritter, Brian Schliep, Tyler Schliep, Lucas Schliep, Allen Green, Nathan Cloum and Anthony Green; front row: Katie Burr, Silicia Goodman, Braelynn Kool, Chloe Waterman, Dorothy Jarrell, Carina Harper, Ella Green, Yvonne Laskie and Miley Green. Missing from photo are Albert Boyke, Corey Vollmer, Logan Jenkins and Kaylynn



CARDINAL BOYS BOWLING – Members of the Whittemore-Prescott varsity boys bowling team are, from left, head coach Gary Ragels, Emerson Sheehan, Gavin Newbert, Austin Hickcox, RJ Schaffner, Andre Butler and Isaiah Bermudez.

W-P bowling teams set for new season

by Ben MurphyWHITTEMORE

Whittemore-Prescott bowling teams are set for the new season. The Lady Cardinals have Vicki Barnes back for her ninth year as head coach and they are coming off a solid state finals appearance last year.

'My team are all leaders that work hard to support one another and to build each other up," Barnes said. "I have high hopes for this year's team as they have gotten a feel for regionals and states. They are great girls that want to do and be better.

"The girls have been working on proper form, technique and baker games. A good season isn't just about winning; it's about enjoying the time together, team bonding and truly having fun."

Returning to the team will be senior Cadence Smith (first team all-conference); juniors Mollee Lomason (first team allconference), Lakin Gielda, JorJa Garno and Lily Trevarrow; and sophomore Isla Smith. Newcomers will be senior Alexis Babcock and freshmen Reese Lomason and Josie Smith.

Every week the goal is to be better than we were the previous week, both individually and as a team," Barnes said. "I hope to get off to a great start, focusing on the baker games and working together as a team for

The boys team will be led by fourth year head coach Gary Ragels.

"It's a rebuild year, so I just want my kids to have fun and just improve through the year," he said. "To have a good season, I just want my kids to enjoy themselves and do the best they can and just get better through-out the season."

Returning varsity bowlers for the boys are junior Andrew Butler and sophomore RJ Schaffner. New to the team are senior Austin Hickcox, juniors Emerson Sheehan and Isaiah Bermudez and sophomore

Gavin Newbert. Teams competed in the first league matches on Saturday at Hi-Skore Lanes in West Branch and this coming Saturday they'll head for Thunder Bowl Lanes in Alpena.

"I just want the boys to get comfortable with the game and learn how the matches work and to enjoy themselves," Ragels said.

*l*ed.-Sat.

Corey Vollmer, Chloe Waterman and Silas Williamson.

"Individual goals are Jayden to get on the podium at states, Brian Schliep trying to be a state qualifier and Travis Marr wants to be a state qualifier," Wilson said. "Team goals (are winning)

ter, Noah Ritter, Brian Schliep,

Lucas Schliep, Tyler Schliep,

conference and district championships and battle for a regional championship. The North Star League, Oscoda, Tawas Area and Mio will be tough."

W-P hosts a home meet today (Wednesday) and they will also be at home for another meet on Wednesday, Dec. 17.







