

Track and field

Panther boys looking forward to getting outside

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It looks like all the bases are covered for the 2023 NRHEG High School boys' track and field team.

Now if the weather would just cooperate.

The Panthers start the season with plenty of depth, but a snow-covered track awaits the melting and the competing.

All of which makes the key to success for the Panthers, according to coach Ducey Ferber, keeping his athletes healthy and, hopefully, getting outdoors very soon.

"We need to keep everyone healthy and able to compete in all the meets," said Ferber. "We need to work hard even if we can't get outside until the snow melts. We may lose some of our early outdoor meets due to snow still on the track."

The Panthers graduated four athletes off last year's squad: Eric Arvis, Jaxon Beck, Matthew Mueller and Nik Petsinger.

Expected to lead this year's Panthers are senior throwers Lucas Hanna and Makota Misgen and senior high jumper Sawyer Prigge, who has cleared 6 feet in practice. Ferber is also high on middle-distance man

Conner Nelson, a senior, and quarter-miler Aidan Deyle, another senior. Juniors Parker Bunn, Levin Kitzler and William Tuttle are expected to score points in the hurdle events. Junior Jaylin Raab is the top returning sprinter. Senior Aden Berg and sophomore Cole Hutchens figure to score in the throws.

The rest of the roster includes seniors Evan Beckmann, Sam Christensen and Brady Schlaak, sophomores Owen Bartlett, Harbor Cromwell, Cohen Riewer, Logan Scheil and Gavin Sletten, freshmen Charlie Fuller, Jacob Karl, Devon Nelton, Trevor Selover and Wyatt Tuttle, 8th-graders Jack Bartlett and Brendan Schmidt, and 7th-graders Remi Johnson, Rowan Sletten and Kenny Spies.

"We have some good athletes in most areas," said Ferber. "We should be strong in our sprints and sprint relays. Our long distance has some good younger athletes as well as some upper classmen. We have seven boy throwers who have a lot of potential this season. Our jumps have some returners to hopefully score some points. We have most of our bases covered. We have a lot of good hard working kids that love to be out



RETURNEES — Back for the NRHEG boys' track and field team are, front from left: Parker Bunn, Harbor Cromwell, Jacob Karl, Sam Christensen, Aidan Deyle, Sawyer Prigge. Back row: Gavin Sletten, Devon Nelton, Connor Nelson, Lucas Hanna, William Tuttle and Jaylin Raab.

Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens

there competing and trying to get better. Our upper classmen do a good job of showing the younger athletes how to work hard to succeed."

Ferber, in his 34th season in New Richland, is assisted by Larry Nydegger, Marc Kruger, Kim Johnson and Brian Belcourt. Ferber sees Maple River as the Gopher Conference favorite and Belle Plaine/Jordan

in Section 2A.

The Panthers' most recent conference titles were in 2018 and 2019, but that could change if everything falls right for NRHEG this spring.

"I think, points-wise, we hope to compete for conference," said Ferber. "I don't know if we got enough firepower there, but I'd like to see us back there. I think for the boys,

Maple River will be tough to beat in the conference. They got so many studs."

NRHEG BOYS' TRACK & FIELD 2023 SCHEDULE

April 4	at Hayfield	4:30
April 11	at USC	4:30
April 18	at Maple River	4:30
April 25	at Bl. Prairie	4:30
April 28	at Blue Earth	4:30

May 4	NRHEG Inv.	4:30
May 9	True Team at USC	3 p.m.
May 13	Conf. at USC	10 a.m.
May 16 Jr.	high conf. at Triton	4:30
May 18	at Waseca	4 p.m.

Golf



GOLFERS — The 2023 NRHEG High School golf teams. Front from left: Gabby Nelson and Alexis Olson. Row two: Laine Krohn, Meela Budach, Mallory Schlinger, Ciara Stenzel, Braydon Rollag, Jacob Klaras, Matthew Williams, Tyler Kress and Shane Hansen. Back: Nash Howe, coach Brad Root, Mason Reeder and Carter Schlaak.

Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens

Linksters shoot to improve

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The good part about going out for the golf team at NRHEG High School is there's no pressure.

The vast majority of the Panthers are there to learn the game and have fun.

"A lot of these kids are out for fun," said Brad Root, a 13-year head golf coach who's been at New Richland 34 years. "It's not about winning."

The boys' team, 5-13 overall, sixth in the Gopher Conference and 12th in the sub-section tournament last year, returns its entire starting lineup with Maverik Buettel, Nash Howe, Carter Schlaak, Shane Hanson and Tyler Kress.

"We had a good season last year and the boys got some good experience, so we are pretty well set on five varsity spots," said Root. "We will again have small numbers on the boys' side, so someone may emerge as a surprise to help us. We did not have many JV meets last year, so the non-varsity players didn't get much meet experience last year. The var-

sity boys have pretty good golf skills, but need to work on the mental side of the game, course management and consistency."

Root, assisted by Grant Berg and Kim Olson, sees Hayfield as the pre-season Gopher Conference favorite. He expects Waseca to be the class of the section.

The NRHEG girls, third in the Gopher Conference and ninth in the sub-section while finishing 8-5, graduated just one senior last year, Kaylee Kruger.

Returning are Grace Wilkenson, Laine Krohn, Tayla Sandry and Clara Stenzel who, according to Root, bring outstanding team chemistry and a good work ethic.

What can you expect from the Panthers this spring?

"A positive attitude in poor weather," said Root. "The girls will also take some aggressive shots."

Root said the Panthers are shooting for the top four spots in the conference and sixth in sub-section.

The bottom-line goal for both the boys' and girls' squads is a strong showing at the conference tournament and sub-section.

"The girls need to be mentally tough and focused this year," said Root. "We are counting on continued improvement, making sure they are prepared for whatever weather condition exist, as well as dealing with situations on the course. We want our student-athletes to enjoy the sport and have fun while representing our school well. In order to best enjoy the game, a good grasp of the rules of golf is necessary. We will be working on the rules and golf etiquette so our golfers will be knowledgeable and welcome wherever we travel to play."

NRHEG GOLF 2023 SCHEDULE

April 6	at JWP	4:30
April 11	at Waseca	4 p.m.
April 13	NRHEG Inv.	4:30
April 20	at JWP	4:30
April 25	at Triton	4:30
April 27	Conference	1 p.m.
May 4	at Hayfield	4:30
May 11	Girls at Kenyon	4:30
May 12	Boys at Kenyon	4:30
May 15	at Waseca	10 a.m.
May 16	NRHEG Inv.	4:30
May 18	Conf. at Waseca	10 a.m.

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