

# PANTHERS FALL SPORTS PREVIEW



**NRHEG Star Eagle**



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**NRHEG FALL 2013** **THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2013**



# Panther football seeks return to glory

By **DALE KUGATH**  
Sports Writer

NEW RICHLAND – The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva football team will rely on solid fronts on both sides of the ball to try to regain its winning ways.

The Panthers had worked their way to a 16-13 mark the previous three seasons before a disastrous 1-8 record in 2012. A return to winning ways is foremost on the minds of the Panthers in 2013.

Head coach Dan Stork begins his 20th year at NRHEG, 11th season as the head coach. He has led the Panthers to a 57-42 mark during his tenure.

Assistant coaches are John Schultz, Grant Berg, Taylor Holland and Andy Peterson.

NRHEG was winless in six Gopher/Valley Conference AA games last season and just 1-8 overall.

The Panthers graduated 13 seniors from their 2012 squad. Toughest to replace will be quarterback Casey Rosacker, running back Brad Claycomb and wide receiver Nic Mangskau.

Rosacker passed for close to 700 yards and doubled as a

defensive back. Claycomb rushed for 510 yards before being injured in week six. Mangskau, the team's top receiver, was injured in the fourth week and done for the year.

NRHEG will build around 12 returning lettermen, eight of whom were starters.

Three starters return in the line and give NRHEG some good size up front. They are senior Noah Krell (200 lbs.), senior Nick Goette (295 lbs.) and junior Keith Maxon (205 lbs.).

Krell plays right guard and defensive tackle. He started every game last season and four games as a sophomore. Goette plays tackle on both sides of the ball. This will be his third season as a starter. Maxon is a center and defensive tackle. He started every game at center as a sophomore.

"Noah is very smart and intense lineman. Nick is big and athletic with very good feet," said Stork. "Keith is a very strong and athletic lineman."

Three starters are back to help the receiving corps. Senior Dillon Parpart (200 lbs.), junior Spencer Tollefson (185 lbs.) and senior Preston Peterson (165 lbs.).

## 2013 NRHEG Football

**Conference:** Gopher/Valley AA.

**Section:** 3AA.

**Coaches:** Head coach Dan Stork, starting 11th season, 57-42 career mark. Assistant coaches are John Schultz, Grant Berg, Andy Peterson and Taylor Holland.

**Last year:** 1-8 overall, 0-6 in conference, lost 1st round playoff game.

**Key losses:** Quarterback Casey Rosacker (700 yds. Passing), RB/LB Brad Claycomb (510 yds. Rushing) and WR/S Nic Mangskau (injured in week four). Ten other seniors graduated.

**Key returnees:** Twelve letterwinners including eight starters: Noah Krell (OL/DL), Nic Goette OL/DL), Keith Maxon (OL/DL), Dillon Parpart (TE/LB), Spencer Tollefson (WR/DB), Nic Bartness (FB/LB), Tyler Logan (RB/LB) and Preston Peterson (WR/CB).

**First action:** Aug. 30th vs. Blooming Prairie.

**Key dates:** Sept. 6th vs. WEM, Oct. 4th at Maple River and Oct. 11th homecoming vs. Loyola.

Parpart is a three-year starter at linebacker. He led the team with 99 tackles and five sacks a year ago.

Tollefson started every game as a sophomore at tight end and strong safety. He led NRHEG with 12 catches for 202 yards and a touchdown.

Peterson started as a cornerback a year ago.

"Parpart is very physical and Tollefson is an intelligent and athletic player," said Stork.

A couple of returning lineback-

ers are junior Nic Bartness (185 lbs.) and Tyler

Logan (170 lbs.).

Bartness started every game at fullback and linebacker. Logan started six games at linebacker.

"Bartness loves to hit people," said Stork.

The remaining returning lettermen are senior Ross Chester (OL/DL) and juniors Trevor Tracy (QB/DB), Matt Jensen (OL/DL) and Keil; Sletten (WR/DB).

Stork is expecting three sopho-

mores to provide some immediate help. They are Wyatt Fitterer (260 lbs) at fullback/defensive line, Trai Wicks (160 lbs.) at wide receiver/quarterback/defensive back and John Weller (200 lbs.) at offensive and defensive line.

NRHEG has 39 players out in grades 10-12. The remaining candidates include juniors Jet Wayne (WR), Zach Stenzel (WR), Alex Merritt (RB), Colton Hagen (TE), Hudson Mrotz (OL)

**Football continued on 7**

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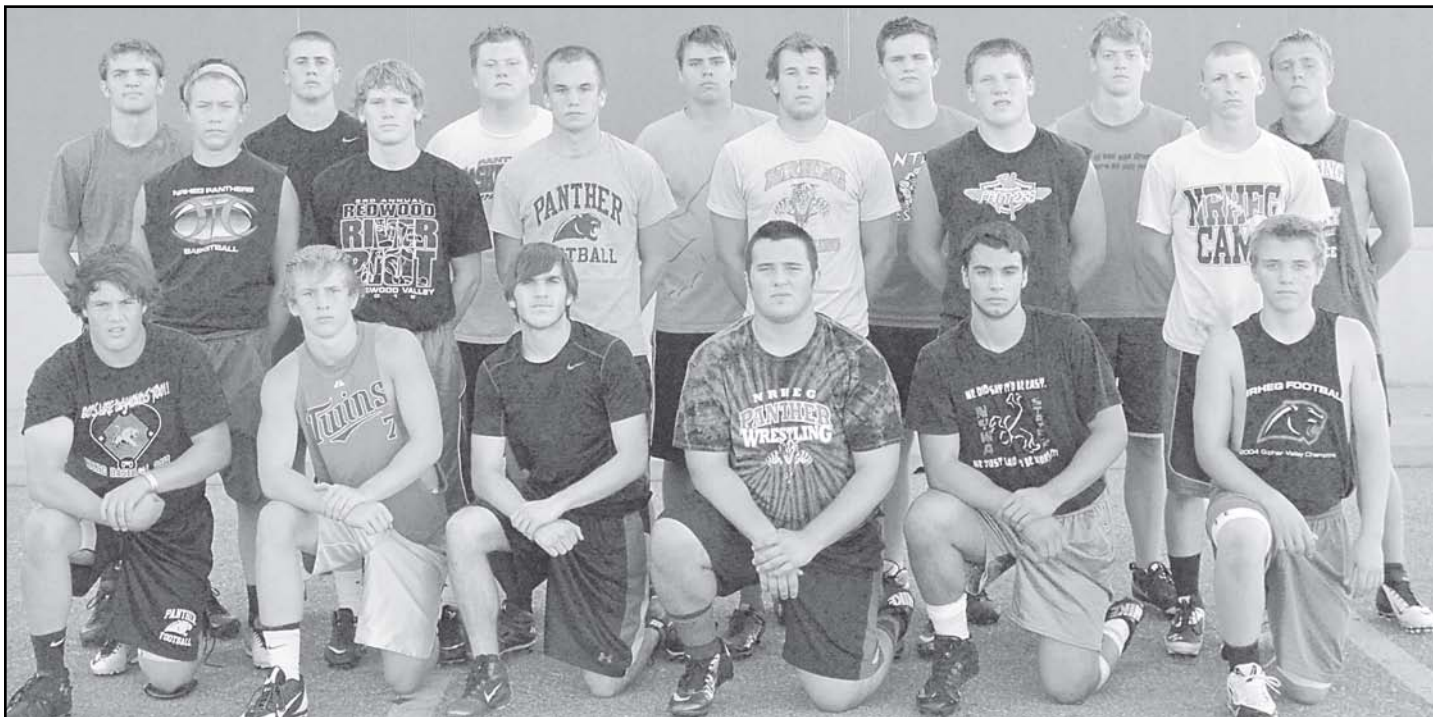
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**INCREASED EXPECTATIONS** — After an off year in 2012, the NRHEG football team is seeking a return to winning ways this fall. Leading the way will be, front from left: Matt Jensen, Preston Peterson, Kiel Sletten, Wyatt Fitterer, Jon Weller and Trevor Tracy. Row two: Jet Wayne, Tyler Logan, Ross Chester, Dillon Parpart, Noah Krell and Zach Stenzel. Back: Nick Bartness, Spencer Tollefson, Nick Goette, Colton Hagen, Zeke Erickson, Hunter Ryg and Keith Maxon. The Panthers host Blooming Prairie Friday in the season opener.

Star Eagle photo by Chris Schlaak

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# Panther spikers will battle to the end

By **DALE KUGATH**  
Sports Writer

**NEW RICHLAND** – The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva volleyball team knows how to win. Now it would like to see some rewards for winning.

The Panther spikers have chalked up 74 victories over the past four years, but have nothing to show for it.

NRHEG plays in the Gopher Conference with Faribault B.A., who has won 12 consecutive conference titles and 107 straight Gopher matches. And LeSueur and Jordan have been very strong opponents in Section 2AA.

First year head coach Onika Peterson would like to change that. This will be Peterson's initial season as a head coach.

She replaces Joe Kuechenmeister, who had a three-year record of 51-34 as head man of the Panther spikers.

Peterson will be assisted by former head coach Jackie Schultz and Corrine Schuller.

NRHEG ended the 2012 campaign with a 10-16-3 overall mark. The Panthers finished 3-4 in the Gopher Conference.

Peterson lost Noelle Bartness, Raelin Schue, Kalana Shurson, and Katie Cole from last year's squad. All of them were starters last season.

Bartness finished second in NRHEG history in assists with 1,722. She has the top two single-season assist records in Panther history.

Bartness was a three-year starter and two-time all-conference selection.

Schue was a two-year starter and solid outside hitter for the Panthers.

Shurson was a two-year starter as a defensive specialist.

Cole was a starting outside hitter for NRHEG a year ago.

"All of these players played significant roles and contributed to our success the past couple of years," said Peterson.

Five senior letterwinners return to ease Peterson into her initial season.

Middle hitter Carlie Wagner is back for her fourth season as a starter. She led the Panthers in kills, blocks and digs in 2012.

"People tend to overlook Carlie's competitiveness," said

## 2013 NRHEG Volleyball

**Conference:** Gopher

**Section:** 2AA

**Coaches:** Head coach Onika Peterson (1st year). Assistant coaches Jackie Schultz & Corrine Schuller

**Last year:** 10-16-3 overall record. 3-4 in Gopher Conference

**Key losses:** Noelle Bartness (2X all-conf.), Raelin Schue (2 yr. starter), Kalana Shurson (2 yr. starter) and Katie Cole (starter, OH)

**Key returnees:** Five (5) letterwinners including Carlie Wagner (3 yr. starter, team leader in kills, blocks & digs), Jade Schultz (2 yr. starter, team leader in aces), Paige Overgaard (starting outside hitter), Hannah Lundberg (DS) and Jordyn Wobschall (DS)

**First action:** Tuesday, Aug. 27 vs. Alden-Conger

**Next home action:** Thursday, Sept. 12 vs. JWP

**Key dates:** Sept. 10 at Le Sueur, Sept. 16 vs. Mankato East, Oct. 3 vs. WEM, and Oct. 10 vs. FBA

Peterson. "She wants to win so much it carries over to her teammates, bringing their game to the next level."

Jade Schultz is back for her senior season. She is rehabbing a knee injury from last year's state basketball tournament so her status is somewhat unsure at this time.

Schultz, a two-year starter, led the team in service aces a year

ago, and was second in digs and blocks.

"We are hoping for the best with Jade's rehab," said Peterson. "Her desire to win, scrappiness and bruiser-type attitude is someone you want playing for you."

Overgaard broke into the lineup as a starting outside hitter last season.

"Paige's attack is hard to read which allows her to get kills,"

said Peterson. "She is a very versatile player who may see some time playing all the way around this season."

Lundberg brings her scrappiness to the floor as a defensive specialist.

"Hannah never gives up on a ball and is always giving her

Volleyball continued on 5

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**NO LOOKING AHEAD** — Before basketball begins in November, there's a volleyball season to play and the NRHEG Panthers, under first-year head coach Onika Peterson, hope to be competitive. Varsity hopefuls include, above front from left: Hailey Schuller, Remi Wayne, Jade Hill, Maddie Wagner and Jade Schultz. Row two: Jordyn Wobschall, Marnie Wagner, Hannah Lundberg, Kaylee Hanson and Alyssa Esplan. Back: Anna Lundberg, Paige Overgaard, Cassidy Sletten, Carlie Wagner, Samantha Petty, Ryann Hagen and Anna Stork.

Star Eagle photo by Chris Schlaak



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## ■ Volleyball

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best effort.”

Wobschall is also a defensive specialist who will be looking for more playing time this year.

The rest of the lineup will have to come from players with no varsity experience.

The candidates are senior Arionna Neumann; juniors Ryann Hagen, Anna Stork, Jade Hill, Kaylee Hanson, Cassidy Sletten, Alyssa Esplan, Remi Wayne and Hailee Mahlmann; and sophomores Anna Bailey, Abby Wacholz, Taylar Tieskotter, Emily Eder, Ryley Koziolk, Hailey Schuller, Abby Christopherson, Corrie Powell, Anna Lundberg, Nicole Eden and Brianna Strand.

“We want to be competitive and keep improving throughout the season,” said Peterson. “Our toughest task will be to get our girls fully committed to the next three months rather than looking ahead to basketball.”

As usual, FBA is the overwhelming conference favorite.

Le Sueur-Henderson, Belle Plaine and Jordan are Peterson's choices as section favorites.

“Our strengths will be our athletic ability, our scrappiness and the desire to compete,” said Peterson. “We know that basketball is the priority. We need to be committed to volleyball for three months.”

Peterson has 17 dates lined up on the

Panther schedule, including tournaments at Mankato West and Blue Earth. NRHEG has eight home dates and nine on the road, including five of the first six.

Alden-Conger comes to town Aug. 27th to open the season.

Conference play opens at Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Sept. 3rd.

Non-conference foes include Alden-Conger, Albert Lea, Le Sueur, Mankato East, Maple River and Tri-City United.

Defending state champ Faribault B.A. come to NRHEG Oct. 10.

### NRHEG Volleyball – 2013

Aug. 27	Alden-Conger	H 7:15
Aug. 29	Albert Lea	A 7:30
Sept. 3	WEM	A 7:15
Sept. 5	Bl. Prairie	A 7:15
Sept. 7	Kato West Inv.	10 am
Sept. 10	LeSueur	A 7:15
Sept. 12	JWP	H 7:15
Sept. 16	Mankato East	H 7:30
Sept. 17	Maple River	A 7:30
Sept. 19	Medford	H 7:15
Sept. 24	TC United	H 7:15
Sept. 26	Randolph	A 7:15
Sept. 28	BE Inv.	A 10 am
Oct. 3	WEM	H 7:15
Oct. 8	Bl. Prairie	H 7:15
Oct. 10	Faribault BA	H 7:15
Oct. 15	USC	A 7:15

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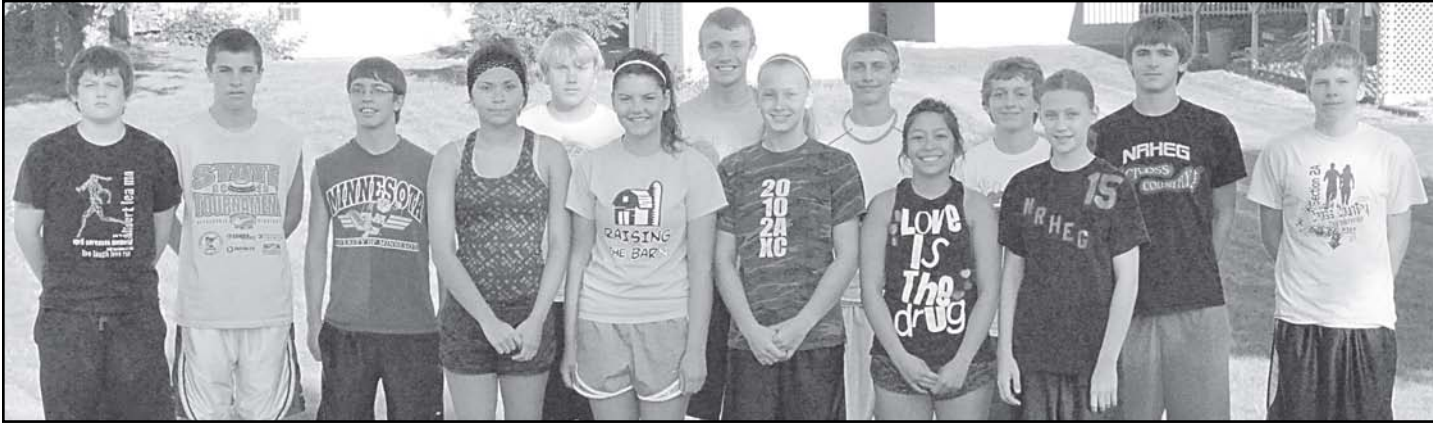
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**GOING THE DISTANCE** — NRHEG cross country hopefuls for 2013 include, from left: Orin Mely, Josh Fleming, Aaron Seath, Sandra Quezada, Kellen Ferber, Marissa Mortenson, T.J. Schiltz, Missy Malakowsky, C.J. Schiltz, Tina Quezada, Zach Mely, Star Besser, Raece Johnson and Adam Anderson. Star Eagle photo by Chris Schlaak

# NRHEG runners solid at the top

By **DALE KUGATH**  
Sports Writer

**NEW RICHLAND** — The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva cross country teams will feature a couple of solid runners at the top of the lineup. But, team depth will once again be the deciding factor as to what kind of season the Panther boys and girls enjoy.

Head coach Mike Weber and assistant coach Lori Tomsche return intact for their fifth seasons. Increasing the numbers has been a top priority for each of their first four seasons.

Both the boys' and girls' teams would like to move up in the conference and section standings, but will need some untested runners to develop for that to happen.

## Boys

NRHEG will have a pair of all-conference runners at the top of its lineup, but is still looking for the depth needed to challenge the strong squads.

The Panthers finished ninth in the Gopher/Valley Conference and 15th in Section 2A a year ago.

The only runner gone from that team is Dustin Burshem.

The 2013 squad will feature four senior runners to build upon.

Top returnee is T.J. Schiltz, an all-conference, all-section and all-state runner last season. Schiltz placed 17th at last year's state meet.

"No one puts in more time running over

## 2013 NRHEG Cross Country

**Conference:** Gopher/Valley

**Section:** 2A

**Coaches:** Head coach Mike Weber, assistant coach Lori Tomsche, both starting 5th year

**Last year:** Boys-9th in conference, 15th in section. Girls-9th in conference, 19th in section

**Key losses:** Boys lost Dustin Burshem, girls lost Crystal Olson

**Key returnees:** Boys return state placewinner T.J. Schiltz, all-conference Raece Johnson and Adam Anderson. Girls return all-conference Katherine Lewer, Melissa Malakowsky, Sandra Quezada, Kristy Possin and Tina Quezada

**First action:** Aug. 29th at Stewartville

**First Home Meet:** Sept. 17th Panther Invite

**Key dates:** Redbird Invite Sept. 5th, conference meet Oct. 15th and Section 2A Oct. 24th

the summer than T.J.," said Weber. "He has set big goals for himself, including a top 10 finish at state."

Raece Johnson, NRHEG's "Most Dedicated" runner last season, is back after earning all-conference honors as a junior.

"Expectations are higher for Raece coming into this season," said Weber.

Adam Anderson was named NRHEG's "Hardest Worker" last season. He and Johnson should battle for the second spot behind Schiltz.

Kellen Ferber is the fourth senior on the 2013 squad.

Sophomores C.J. Schiltz, Aaron Seath and Zach Mely, along with freshman Josh Fleming, will be fighting to fill out the varsity lineup.

Ben Lewer had a number of good junior high races a year ago and may be ready to help out the varsity.

"We need some younger boys or first-year older boys to fill some of the holes in our lineup," said Weber. "We hope some of them take advantage of the opportunity."

CC continued on 7

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## ■ Football

from Page 2

, Hunter Ryg (OL) and Kyle Holz (WR). The sophomores are Dillon Vella (OL), Nate Krause (RB), John Cole (WR), Palmer Peterson (QB), Karter Sletten (TE), Cole Ignaszewski (WR), Rey Hoppe (RB), Levi Ekwall (OL), Garrett Kylo (OL), Sean Darcy (OL), Lucas Herrmann (OL), Clayton Nelson (OL), Bryant Reese (OL), Zeke Erickson (OL), Brody Hanson (OL), Tyler Schlaak (TE) and Cordell Pederson (WR).

"We will take it one game at a time, but hope to finish with a winning record," said Stork. "We have the potential to be solid up front and we have some good kids that

work hard and play together as a unit. We have some good leaders in the senior class."

Stork feels that Waterville-Elysian-Morristown is the conference favorite because they are loaded up front.

He looks for Luverne and Jackson County Central to be the teams to beat in Section 3AA.

"Offensively, we will take what the defense gives us. We pride ourselves on being very versatile," said Stork. "Defensively, we will attack you."

"We will have to overcome our lack of depth at the skilled positions," said Stork.

NRHEG's eight game schedule includes possibly its two toughest opponents to start the year. The Panthers open with home games against Blooming Prairie (Aug. 30) and WEM (Sept. 6).

The first road contest is week three at

Medford.

New teams on the NRHEG schedule this season are Lester Prairie (Home, Sept. 20) and Mankato Loyola (Homecoming, Oct. 11).

The rest of the schedule includes road games at LCWM (Sept. 27), Maple River (Oct. 4) and GFW (Oct. 11).

11).

### NRHEG Football - 2013

Aug. 30	Bl. Prairie	H 7:00
Sept. 6	WEM	H 7:00
Sept. 13	Medford	A 7:00
Sept. 20	Lester Prairie	H 7:00
Sept. 27	LCWM	A 7:00
Oct. 4	Maple River	A 7:00
Oct. 11	Loyola (HC)	H 7:00
Oct. 16	GFW	A 7:00

## ■ CC

from Page 6

Weber feels that Mankato Loyola and United South Central are the

conference favorites in 2013. He hopes the Panthers can move up to the middle of the pack.

Waseca and Loyola are Weber's choices as section favorites.

### Girls

The NRHEG girls will have better depth than the boys, but will still need some untested runners to help their top five runners.

NRHEG placed ninth in the Gopher/Valley Conference and 19th in Section 2A in 2012.

Captain Crystal Olson is the only Panther lost to graduation from a year ago. She was NRHEG's number two or three runner most of last season.

The Panthers will not have a senior on this year's team.

Juniors Tina Quezada, Melissa Malakowsky, Sandra Quezada and Kristy Possin are all back from last season.

Tina Quezada was injured much of last season and will be a valuable addition if she can stay healthy all year.

Malakowsky will probably be NRHEG's number two runner this season.

Sandra Quezada was named the "Hardest Worker" in 2012. She should challenge Malakowsky for the second spot.

Possin earned the "Most Improved" award a year ago and hopes to build on that in 2013.

Katherine Lewer and Marissa Mortenson return for their sophomore seasons.

Lewer was the Panther MVP and all-conference a year ago.

"Lewer earned all-conference honors in a very tough conference. We hope she can repeat," said Weber.

Mortenson gained some varsity experience a year ago and could be a regular varsity runner this fall.

Eighth-grader Starr Besser has the potential to step in and help the Panther varsity runners.

"I feel like there are some new faces on this team who might surprise us," said Weber. "We have to keep working to get stronger in order to move up in a tough conference and strong section."

Weber tabs USC, Mankato Loyola and Martin County West as the Gopher/Valley favorites.

He sees Waseca, Fairmont and USC battling for top honors in the section.

The Panthers will be at home just once this fall. They host their annual Panther Invite at Riverview Gold Course Sept. 17.

### NRHEG Cross Country - 2013

Aug. 29	Stewartville Inv.	4 p.m.
Sept. 5	Montgomery Inv.	4 p.m.
Sept. 12	M. River Inv.	4:30
Sept. 17	NRHEG Inv.	4:30
Sept. 24	Bl. Prairie	4:30
Sept. 26	JWP Invite	4:30
Oct. 3	Waseca	4:30
Oct. 8	USC (Wells)	4:30
Oct. 15	Conf.(Loyola)	4 p.m.
Oct. 24	Sect. (Montgomery)	4 p.m.

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Fall cheerleaders



NRHEG High School's 2013 fall cheerleaders. Front from left: Abbey Solland, Stormi Hagen, Jodynn Nelson-Spies and Presley Johnson. Row two: Nicole Edon, Jessica Nafe and Mikayla Besser. Back: Lizzy Hagen, Cecelia Torp, Bayli Possin and Anna Bailey.

Star Eagle photo by Chris Schlaak

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