

Crofton Warriors: The Next Wave



The Crofton girls' basketball team hoists the state championship trophy after the 2015 C2 title game. This year's squad is looking to build on a legacy that has seen the program win four straight titles and take a 53-game winning streak into the 2015-16 season.

New Group Of Leaders Works To Add To Program's Four Straight Titles

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

CROFTON, Neb. – A new wave of leaders is ready for the challenge in this small, northeast Nebraska town. Their goal? Maintain – and help extend – the Crofton High School girls' basketball tradition. It's a tradition that has seen seven state championships in 11 seasons, including the last four, and a 53-game winning streak entering the season.

It's a task the trio of Breanna Allen, Monica Arens and Kelsey Sanger, among others, is embracing.

"We always want to continue what the girls before us did," said Allen, one of seven seniors on a team that graduated four key players from a 29-0 championship squad.

"We've watched that since we were kids," Allen added. "For me as a senior, in my fourth year, I want to go out with a bang."

To get to that point again, however, the Warriors are going to have to replace the production – not to mention leadership – of a departed senior class that won 105 games and four state titles.

It was a challenge that was issued right away to the current group.

"Especially this summer, it was definitely made clear that we lost some big players," junior Kelsey Sanger said. "But we always push through, and we all know our role."

"We know what we have to do."

Head coach Aaron Losing has been through this before, though. His first three seasons at Crofton ended with a state championship. Then came a string of third place, third place, didn't make state (2010), second, followed by four titles in a row.

Losing said the current group of juniors and seniors are no strangers to success. "Obviously they've watched us have success



Crofton's Bre Allen

over the past couple years, but even in their own grade level, they've won," Losing said.

"So I'm sure they'll want to continue to build on the success they've had and we've had."

Two juniors in particular, Arens and Sanger, will be especially be counted on this

season. Arens, a second team All-State selection, averaged 13.3 points last season, while Sanger averaged 8.3 points, 3.9 assists and 3.2 steals.

"They've been a central part of our team," Losing said. "We'll definitely rely on those two to lead the way on offense and defense."

"We've got a lot of players

to go with them, but they're definitely two talented kids."

During Crofton's current of four straight state championships, depth has been a central theme. The Warriors, who utilize a full-court transition style, have been able to develop reserves to the point where they can step on the floor and contribute immediately.

That will take some time this season, according to Losing – who pointed out that because of another extended volleyball season and two snow days this week, it's hard to evaluate where the team stands.

"We've been very lucky the last several years that our depth was there in place," Losing said.

He paused, then added, "This is more of a normal progression for teams, to make sure you work throughout the year on developing kids."

Outside of Arens, Sanger and Allen (5.3 ppg), Crofton will also rely on experienced players like senior Katie Petersen (3.1 ppg), senior Allison Tramp (5.1 ppg), junior Lauren Steffen (3.7 ppg) and senior Brittany Guenther (1.1 ppg).

From there, a group of 10 other returning players will

CROFTON | PAGE 17

Neb. Boys

FROM PAGE 15

Ponca

COACH: Adam Poulosky
ASSISTANTS: Mike Brandt, Trevor Wright

VITALS: Class C2, Lewis & Clark Conference

LAST YEAR: The Indians (8-14) lost to Crofton in sub-districts.

RETURNING: Logan Kingsbury (So., 6-2, 16.5 ppg, first team All-Conference), Hunter Schweers (Jr., 6-3, F, 7 ppg), Derrek Touney (Jr., 6-2, G, 7 ppg), Connor Day (So., 6-0, G), Max Masin (So., 6-3, F), Justin Carmonn (Jr., 5-10, F), Jack Charlson (Jr., 6-3, F), Andrew Lamprecht (Jr., 5-9, G)

NEWCOMERS: Dalton Tremayne (So., 5-10, G), Ryan Bentz (Jr., 6-0, F), Russell McLean (Jr., 5-11, F)

Randolph

COACH: Mark Anderson
ASSISTANT: Jim Hixon

VITALS: Class D1, Lewis & Clark Conference

LAST YEAR: The Cardinals finished with a 15-7 record.

RETURNING: Landyn Anderson (6-4, G, 8 ppg, 3.7 rpg), Logan Nordhues (6-4, F, 13.4 ppg, 5.8 rpg), Denton Kuhl (6-0, F, 5.8 ppg, 5.8 rpg), Connor Bloomquist (6-1, G, 6.6 ppg, 3.8 rpg), Mason Stubbs (6-2, G, 3.1 ppg)

NEWCOMERS: Andrew Schnoor (Jr., 5-9, G), Judson

Hixson (So., 6-2, C)

Wausa

COACH: Chip Bartos
VITALS: Class D2

LAST YEAR: The Vikings finished with a 8-16 record.

ROSTER: Ryan Kumm (Sr., 6-0, F, 4.3 ppg), Aiden Kleinschmit (Sr., 5-10, SG, 2.5 ppg), Gaige Hegge (Jr., 6-0, SF), John Rosberg (So., 5-8, PF), Travis Gillilan (Sr., 6-0, SG), Drew Munter (Fr., 5-10, SF), Tyson Kaiser (Fr., 5-8, PG), Ghaithin Hegge (Fr., 5-10, SG)

Wynot

COACH: Lee Heimes
ASSISTANT: Steve Heimes

VITALS: Class D2, Lewis & Clark Conference

LAST YEAR: The Blue Devils (17-8) lost in sub-districts to Bancroft-Rosalie.

ROSTER: Austin Lange (Sr., 6-2, C), Cody Stratman (Sr., 5-10, PG), Jalen Wieseler (Jr., 5-10, SG), Nate Wieseler (Fr., 5-9, PG), Landon Wieseler (Fr., 5-7, PG), Trevor Gartner (Sr., 5-10, SG), Aydon Tramp (Fr., 5-11, F), Ethan Hochstein (Fr., 5-10, C), Jake Wieseler (Fr., 5-9, SG), Dawson Sudbeck (Jr., 5-9, PG), Jarrett Bruening (Sr., 6-0, F), Justin Lange (So., 6-0, F), Cole Schumacher (Jr., 5-9, SG), Justin Koch (Jr., 5-9, SG), Ethan Lange (So., 6-4, C), Kevin Bruening (So., 6-3, C), Joe Merkel (Jr., 5-9, C), Wes Noecker (So., 5-9, SG), Ben Hite (So., 5-9, SG), Cael Sudbeck (Jr., 5-10, SG), Cody Linder (Jr., 6-2, C)



Crofton's Tanner Crosley

GAYVILLE-VOLIN

Boys' Basketball

12/11.....	vs. Baltic
12/15.....	at Wausa
12/18.....	vs. Alcester-Hudson
12/30.....	vs. Faulkton Area (Huron Classic)
1/5.....	vs. Scotland
1/8.....	at Irene-Wakonda (W)
1/11.....	vs. Canistota
1/14.....	at Viborg-Hurley (V)
1/16.....	vs. Burke-South Central (TVC Classic)
1/19.....	at Parker
1/23.....	vs. Tripp-Delmont-Armour
1/28.....	vs. Menno
2/5.....	at Bridgewater-Emery
2/9.....	at Freeman Academy
2/12.....	at Centerville
2/13.....	at Beresford
2/15.....	vs. Avon
2/18.....	vs. Freeman
2/25.....	vs. Andes Cent./Dak. Chr.

Girls' Basketball

12/11.....	vs. Menno
12/11.....	vs. Baltic
12/12.....	vs. Dakota Valley
12/15.....	at Wausa
12/18.....	vs. Alcester-Hudson
12/28.....	Parkston Classic
1/5.....	vs. Scotland
1/8.....	at Irene-Wakonda (W)
1/14.....	at Viborg-Hurley (V)
1/19.....	at Parker
1/21.....	vs. Hartington-Newcastle
1/23.....	vs. Tripp-Delmont-Armour
1/28.....	vs. Bloomfield
1/30.....	vs. Marion (TVC Classic)
2/5.....	at Bridgewater-Emery
2/9.....	at Freeman Academy
2/12.....	at Centerville
2/13.....	at Beresford
2/15.....	vs. Avon
2/18.....	vs. Freeman
2/19.....	at Bon Homme

VALLEY Ag Supply
509 Washington St.
Gayville, SD
(605) 267-3100

Ma & Pa's C-Store
Consignment Store
Lottery Room
Fresh Baked Goodies
267-2386 • Gayville, SD
Find us on Facebook
Ma Pa's C-Store

Gerstner Oil Co.
E. Hwy. 50
Yankton
665-5568

VIBORG-HURLEY

12/11.....	vs. Freeman (V)	12/8.....	vs. Scotland (V)
12/14.....	at Scotland	12/12.....	vs. Marion (V)
12/18.....	vs. Irene-Wakonda (V)	12/15.....	vs. Bridgewater-Emery (V)
12/31.....	vs. Beresford (Buseman Classic)	12/18.....	vs. Irene-Wakonda (V)
1/5.....	at Tripp-Delmont-Armour (T)	12/19.....	vs. Warner (Sioux Falls)
1/8.....	at Elk Point-Jefferson	12/29.....	at Elk Point-Jefferson
1/14.....	vs. Gayville-Volin (V)	1/5.....	at Tripp-Delmont-Armour (T)
1/16.....	vs. Bridgewater-Emery (TVC Classic)	1/11.....	vs. Alcester-Hudson (H)
1/22.....	at Baltic	1/14.....	vs. Gayville-Volin (V)
1/23.....	DSU Classic	1/16.....	vs. Hanson Classic
1/26.....	vs. Alcester-Hudson (V)	1/18.....	vs. Freeman (H)
1/28.....	at Centerville	1/22.....	at Baltic
2/2.....	at Canistota	1/25.....	vs. Corsica-Stickney (H)
2/5.....	at Freeman Academy	1/28.....	at Centerville
2/6.....	Pentagon Classic	1/30.....	vs. Platte-Geddes (TVC Classic)
2/9.....	at Avon	2/5.....	at Freeman Academy
2/12.....	vs. Parker (H)	2/9.....	at Avon
2/15.....	vs. Flandreau Indian (H)	2/12.....	vs. Parker (H)
2/16.....	at Menno	2/16.....	vs. Menno
2/20.....	vs. Ethan (H)	2/18.....	at Canistota

FORT RANDALL TELEPHONE CO.
605-563-2863
Wagner, SD

Parsons' INSURANCE AGENCY
115 N. Main Viborg SD (605) 326-5358
Crop • Farm • Life
Home • Auto • Health
"Protecting what matters to you."
Parsons' Insurance Agency is an equal opportunity provider

Keeping Smiles Healthy & Young
Scott Family Dentistry
1101 Broadway Suite 105, Morgen Square Plaza
665-2448 • www.scott-family-dentistry.com
New Patients and Emergencies Welcome!
Experience Gentle, Personalized Dental Care For Your Entire Family!

FULLY EQUIPPED. FULLY EXPERIENCED.

From obstetrics to geriatrics, surgery to routine exams, **Avera Sacred Heart Hospital** offers a wide range of services right in the Yankton community. Complemented by our experts and advanced technology, we are your full-service hospital.

Our Emergency Department is open 24 hours a day — every day — to care for big and small emergencies. Call 911 if needed.

Call 605-668-8000 to schedule an appointment.

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital
501 Summit St.
Yankton, SD 57078
AveraSacredHeart.org