



Girls basketball tipped off their season earlier this week. More on back page

Blue Ink



Wrestlers take down competition in opening tournament

Garretson grapplers place well but leave room for improvement throughout the season

by **Peyton Sage**
staff writer

The Garretson varsity grapplers hit the mat for the first time this season in Flandreau last weekend. With only eight wrestlers on Saturday's roster, the team performed well but showed lots of room for improvement.

Tayson Swatek and Dakota Johnson experienced first-time nerves, but their performances on the mat were promising.

Dakota Johnson, rounding out the final weight class, recalled, "I think I did an okay job on Saturday, but I could have done better. I just need to get a feel for wrestling and get more

experience on the mat."

Hayden Pierret placed 2nd in the 120 weight class against Zak Fowler from Elk Point-Jefferson, Dakota Johnson placed 2nd in the 285 weight class against Silas Larsen from Sioux Valley, and Ben Konechne placed 4th in the 195 weight class against Elk Point-Jefferson's Hunter Ewing.

The team finished with 43 points total and placed seventh out of the eight teams. "I think the team needs to step up. We all need to relax and get back into the feel of wrestling, and also improve after every meet," Johnson commented on their performance.

Pierret added, "Our team did alright on Saturday, but there are a lot of new

teammates this year. We need to work the most on finishing moves."

On Monday, the JV wrestlers went to Flandreau to participate in their JV tournament.

Dominick Abraham placed 1st, Trenton Karli, Lucas Fitzgerald, and Dakota Johnson placed 2nd, and the 3rd place wrestlers were Tayson Swatek, Jayse Miller, and Hayden Stoterau.

Garretson also went to Volga yesterday to participate in a quad against Sioux Valley, Parker, and Mt. Vernon.

The wrestlers will now take on some tough competition next Saturday at the Elk Point-Jefferson tournament.

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: All the gifts in the Twelve Days of Christmas would equal 364 gifts.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: Why does Santa have three gardens?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: The following are the first letters of the first few words of popular Christmas songs. Can you decipher it?

1. FTSWAJHS
2. AIWFCIMTFT

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, December 9

- JV/V GBB v. Tri-Valley (4:00/6:30)
- JV/V BBB v. Tri-Valley (5:15/8:00)

Saturday, December 10

- JH GBB v. Chester (2:00)
- JV/V GBB v. Chester (4:00)

Monday, December 12

- JH/JV Wrestling @ Beresford (4:00)

- School Board Meeting (5:45)

Tuesday, December 13

- JV/V GBB @ Canton (4:30/6:00)
- JV/V BBB @ Canton (4:30/7:00)

Thursday, December 15

- JH GBB @ West Central (4:30)

Scan for a look at the district activities calendar.



FFA attends state contest, performs well

Ten Garretson FFA members attend state leadership contest in Pierre

by **Emily Malsom**
staff writer

Midday last Sunday, 10 FFA members went west looking for success. FFA state leadership contests were held in Pierre, South Dakota on December 4th and 5th.

After hours of practice and some last-minute preparation, the Garretson FFA brought two teams and three individuals as well as one timer to Pierre.

FFA advisor, Miss Kientopf shared insight on going into contests on Sunday. "I felt that we were a little unready but I was fully confident in each teams abilities to do their best to succeed."

The results were announced at a banquet held on Monday. The Ag Sales team, consisting of Moriah Flanagan, Zeb Johnson, Ryan Fick, and Emily Malsom, placed 4th in the state out of 14.

The other big success story came from freshman Nobel Nothstine in Creed Speaking. She placed 4th. Nothstine said, "I was nervous going into the contest, but I learned that the performance starts before you ever say a word so I picked myself up and spoke the creed. That was my best performance yet."

Garretson competed in other contests as well. Alex Uhl placed 18th in



FFA members qualifying for and attending the state leadership conference are Jaden Flanagan, Allison Longhenry, Moriah Flanagan, Claire Longhenry, Emily Malsom, Alex Uhl, Ryan Fick, Tessa Pederson, Zeb Johnson, and Nobel Nothstine. Five of the ten members came away with top placings in their respective qualifying categories.

Photo courtesy of Garretson FFA Facebook page

Ag Broadcasting. Claire Longhenry received 15th in Public Speaking with a speech about race horses. The Market Plan team composed by Allison Longhenry, Claire Longhenry, and Jaden Flanagan, placed 6th. Tessa Pederson also assisted the judges of Senior Par-

liamentary Procedure as a timer for the contest.

The next competition opportunity will be to apply for proficiencies in their chosen Supervised Agriculture Experience areas.

Personality Quiz: Which holiday are you?

A fun non-scientific quiz compiled by Blue Ink journalists: Look for results on back side

1. How would your friends describe you?

- a. Exciting
- b. Relaxed
- c. Daring
- d. Caring

2. Which shoe sounds best?

- a. Flip flops/sandals
- b. Tennis shoes
- c. Boots
- d. Dress shoes

3. Which is your favorite season?

- a. Summer
- b. Winter
- c. Autumn
- d. Spring

4. What do you like best about Christmas?

- a. Fun holiday parties
- b. Gift exchanges
- c. Food!
- d. Time with friends and family

5. What's your favorite movie genre?

- a. Comedy or action
- b. Sci-Fi or documentary
- c. Suspense or horror
- d. Romance or drama



Worth Mentioning

JH BBB had their home opener last night against Tri-Valley. This was their second game this season. They have almost one month off as their next game is not until January 3 at Parker.

9 days is all we have left until the winter break. School gets out on Thursday, December 22 and will resume on Tuesday, January 3.

Semester Tests will once again happen in January. Students will take their tests over a 3-day span, January 9, 10, and 11.

JOKE: So he can "ho-ho-ho"

BRAINTEASER: 1. Frosty the Snowman was a jolly happy soul 2. All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth

Garretson's Hometown Christmas returns to Main Street this weekend

Going for hayrides, visiting Santa, and enjoying music are must a few of the many events to enjoy during this weekend's celebration.

by **Isaiah Mader**
senior writer

Garretson's annual "Home Town Christmas" starts tonight with many fun festivities for people of all ages to enjoy. The events are designed get people out of the house and into the Christmas mindset just weeks before the holiday consumes the nation. Local businesses will be opening

their doors and offering many specials for the community to appreciate. The Garretson Fire Department will be offering rides on their fire trucks while our high school choir will also be singing Christmas jingles for the locals to enjoy at the American Legion. These are just a few of the many activities going on this weekend. Santa Claus will also be showing up in town for the children to visit with.

The other local favorite scheduled is horse and wagon rides. Junior Jaden Braaten said, "I'm looking forward to all the activities and even though it's going to be chilly out, it still sounds like it should be a fun time." The town is already getting in the Christmas spirit with a rejuvenated emphasis on Holiday Lanes for each area of town. Some houses have

amped up their displays this year, making a drive around town a must after partaking in the festivities of the Home Town Christmas uptown. Junior Marc Rattenborg also added, "I'm really excited to start off the holiday season with lots of fun events and things to do with the fam." As Christmas Day quickly approaches, the events going on this weekend are a good preview into the season of

Wrestlers hit the mat with first competition tomorrow

Younger wrestlers step up to fill void left from graduation and seek to continue strong Garretson wrestling traditions

by **Mason Hofer**
staff writer

Shoes squeaking against the gym floor, the basketball pounding against the ground like a raging heartbeat before speaking in front of the class, chanting heard throughout the gym: these are the sounds of basketball season.

Garretson basketball is back! Girls basketball kicked off the season with a

not so familiar opponent. The Lady Blue Dragons (0-1) faced off against Vermillion (1-0) on Tuesday night. The Tanagers are a very tough squad to start off the season with. They proved that on Tuesday night with a convincing 68-23 win over the home team. Garretson struggled to knock down shots, shooting a very low percentage from the field. Garretson also struggled at the charity stripe (free throw

line). This led to a discouraged Garretson team as Vermillion ran away with the win in both varsity and junior varsity. Despite the loss to start the season, Garretson looks to get their win tonight with a matchup against the Tri-Valley Mustangs. The Lady Blue Dragons saw the Mustangs in a pre-season jamboree last weekend and fared well against them. Garretson hopes to keep that

momentum going as they face them for the first official time of the season tonight. JV tips off at 4:00 with the girls at 6:30. Boys basketball also sees the court tonight. It will be their season/home opener as they too face the Mustangs in the double header. JV boys hit the court at 5:15 and varsity caps off the night at 8:00.

Holiday Fun

Fill out this holiday themed mad-lib with your friends at the lunch table.

Every Christmas season my _____ (noun) and I come together to make _____ (noun) and _____ (noun). But this

year it _____ (verb) all over the kitchen walls, the worst part was still ahead. Then my _____ (adjective) mom _____ (verb)

into the _____ (adjective) kitchen. She _____ (verb) in horror at the sight. "You're grounded!" With only _____ (number) days left until

Christmas, my _____ (noun) and I somehow managed to make the _____ (adjective) list!

Teacher feature: Ms. Blake

Garretson's new middle school social studies teacher opens up about background, hobbies, and schooling.

Ms. Samantha Blake is in her first year of teaching after attending college in Yankton. She came to Garretson and became the girls basketball head coach. She replaced longtime Garretson teacher, Mr. Bennett, who retired last year, as Social Studies and

History teacher.
Q: What hobbies do you enjoy?
A: I love to watch movies, read books, run and play basketball!
Q: Where did you attend college?
A: I went to Mount Marty College in Yankton, South Dakota.

Q: Why did you decide to become a teacher?
A: Because Archaeology wasn't what I expected it to be. History is fun, and I love teaching kids!
Ms. Blake has seamlessly stepped into her role as a teacher and coach at

Garretson. She and the girls basketball team have a double header tonight versus Tri-Valley.



Personality Quiz: Which holiday are you?

If you got mostly A, you're The Fourth of July! You're the life of the party. You bring life, excitement, and energy into the room and people love to be around you. You are definitely a firework.

If you got mostly B, you're Christmas! You're generally pretty chill and relaxed. You're care-free and would rather not stress too much and just sit back with some hot cocoa.

If you got mostly C, you're Halloween! You're bold and not afraid to speak your mind. You see no reason not to be free and be yourself. You are the most daring and exciting holiday.

If you got mostly D, you're Valentines Day! You have a kind and generous heart. You think about others before yourself and you're a good friend to others when they need you most.

What do you want most this Christmas?



Erynn Fink: New Basketball Socks



Savonne Grote-wold: A new pair of black sweat-pants



Kylee Greenhoff: I have everything I need in life, so I don't specifically want anything.



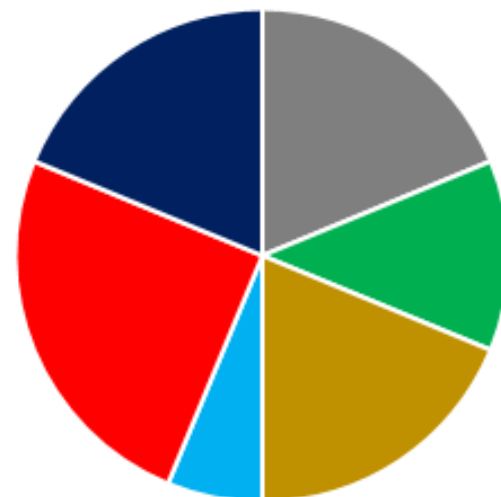
Sylvia Larson: I recently became an emo so I have begun a mission to acquire all the CDs. I have all the Panic! at the Disco, Twenty One Pilots, and Fall Out Boy albums. So my mission this Christmas is to get albums from bands like MCR and All Time Low. Also I suppose I should say I want world peace because it'll make me look good.

Happy Holidays!



Student Opinion Poll

Students were asked what their favorite holiday song is.



- "Silver and Gold"
- "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"
- "Silent Night"
- "Frosty the Snowman"
- "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"
- "Jingle Bells"