

Blue Ink



Garretson Weekly School Newspaper - Garretson, SD - Volume 3, Number 1

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: A brand new American Flag is flown over the White House each day.

BRAIN TEASER OF THE WEEK: What is always coming but never arrives?
Answer on back page

JOKE OF THE WEEK: A father asks, "What did you learn in school today, son?"
Answer on back page

- UPCOMING EVENTS:**
- Friday, September 4**
- Football @ Centerville
 - Monday, September 7**
- No School—Labor Day
 - Tuesday, September 8**
- XC @ Jesse James Invitational
- 7/8 Volleyball @ Colman-Egan
- JV/V Volleyball @ Colman-Egan
- Soccer v. West Central
 - Thursday, September 10**
- 7/8 Volleyball v. Tri-Valley
- Volleyball @ BEC Tourney-Parker
 - Friday, September 11**
- Football @ Alcester-Hudson

Look online for a full version of the *Blue Ink* later today.



Scan for the full upcoming event schedule

Sioux Falls Christian Charges over Blue Dragons

By Annika Hanson

On September 3rd the Garretson volleyball team went up against Sioux Falls Christian. It was an intense match that sadly ended in a Blue Dragon loss.

Unfortunately the new gym was unable to be used. It was incredibly humid that day and the floor was slippery making it unable to play on. The junior varsity teams started play, but looked like they were skating more than playing volleyball. Due to this complication the bleachers in the old gym were very crowded but Garretson enjoyed the game nonetheless.

This was Garretson's first home match this season. The score started out with 7-25; game two ended 11-25, while game three ended 13-25. "The team was able to rally back towards the end of the game. It was a rough start but they didn't let that

deter them" stated assistant volleyball coach Kelsey Buchholz.

Sioux Falls was a very difficult opponent for the Blue Dragon girls because they are a very good team. "It's always tough

to start out the season against Sioux Falls Christian because they

are consistently one of the best in state. The girls showed



Sophomore libero Emily Schleuter digs an attack from the strong Sioux Falls Christian offense on Tuesday night.

Photo by Sylvia Larson



Senior Lara Luke serves up one of her three aces on Thursday versus Baltic. Unfortunately the Blue Dragons were unable to pull out the win on Parents' Night.

Photo by Sylvia Larson

glimpses of strong potential and that definitely makes us excited for the upcoming games including Thursday against Baltic," said Buchholz.

The girls had a chance to redeem themselves against the Bulldogs, which was also Garretson's Parents' Night. The Blue Dragon girls played more competitively on Thursday night than Tuesday but still fell short on achieving their second win of the early season, falling in three straight sets: 17-25, 15-25, 19-25.

Senior Peyton Heitkamp led the team statistically with seven kills and four blocks. Senior Lara Luke tallied four kills while senior Kristen Martens put down three.

Sophomore Emily Schleuter picked up 13 digs against the Bulldogs while Senior Brianna Callsen and sophomore Madi Northrup each had eight.

Garretson will be in action next Tuesday night at Colman-Egan.

School is Back in Session

By Annika Hanson

A new school year has started for the Garretson School District and other schools around South Dakota. While some were excited for school to start, others wanted summer to never end.

This year is the first for many students but for a familiar face in the school, it will be her last. Mrs. McClure just completed her last first week of school and she also claimed it was her best first week. "This is my last year and this first week has been the very best first week of school I've ever had, because everybody's been so co-

operative and behavior has been so perfect," said Mrs. McClure.

It's not only Mrs. McClure who is having a good start either; all around the school you can see smiling faces around every corner. Some people have already decorated their lockers.

Going back to school can mean a lot of different things for people. The first thing some people do is go shopping, while others try to finish a series on Netflix before the first day.

While school has been positive for some it has been somewhat of a rough

start for others, people have slowly been adjusting to their new schedules and classes. But once a few weeks pass, it will seem normal, just as it does every year.

Junior Kindra Clark said, "I'm looking forward to this year and a new phase in my life."

This is going to be a new phase in everyone's life, which will include new experiences and adventures. So let's make this another great year!

Cross Country Starts Season, Looks to Repeat Last Year's Success

By Brianna Callsen

This year XC is doing something new by increasing the distance the girls have to run; by increasing the distance to a 5k, the girls and boys now run the same distance.

Senior Jaden Bly said, "At first I wasn't so sure about the change, but now it's really not that bad since we're running that much in practice anyways."

This year's XC team has been adding up all the miles pushing themselves harder and harder every meet to get to state.

Sophomore Riley Nordstrom said, "From the first meet to the last meet, I have already cut a minute and 20 seconds from my time."

The XC team is practicing as hard as they can to make themselves a better team and to get back to state.

Last year, the girls' team finished fourth in state and the boys were runners up. The two teams' success also earned them the Combined State title for the second year in a row.

The road back will be tough though as there were some key seniors last year: Tait Johnson, Joshua Liester, and Lydia Olson. The younger runners are going to have to step up to fill those voids.

In addition to that, the competition that Garretson will face in the region meet is tough. Sophomore Alex Uhl

and Nordstrom both said that Madison, West Central, and Sioux Falls Christian are all going to be some tough teams.

The Blue Dragons have done well so far in this early season. Most recently they traveled to Salem where individually the harriers ran well. The girls team took top honors with four girls finishing in the top 20: eighth grader Rachel Kindt, fourth; freshman Carmen Bohl, sixth; senior Haley Sage, 14th; senior Jaden Bly, 18th.

Nothing can stop the Blue Dragons so come out and support their next meet at home on September 8th.

Blue Dragons Soccer has a Rough Beginning, Hope for Final Games

By Alex Uhl

The Garretson Lady Dragons suffered another loss yesterday against Mitchell with a final score of 5-0. This drops their season record to 0-6-0 with five games left on their schedule.

But fortunately, the girls played hard and put up an uphill battle for their opponents.

The same can be said about all of

their other games where they have been unable to pull out a win, but as previously said they weren't going down without a fight. It didn't help that they had some of their more valued and experience players unable to play due to injury. In addition, they lost a few key players to graduation between this season and last.

"The injury bug has been going

around," said Junior Kindra Clark when referring about her injured teammates Kaley Flanagan and Brandy Greenhoff. "But we also lost a lot of good talent when the seniors graduated," said Clark.

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School Suffered Damage from Summer Storm, Recovery is in the Works

By Alex Uhl

This summer the town of Garretson and the surrounding areas were hit by a catastrophic storm that caused a lot of damage. Winds were clocked at over 140 mph at one point in Garretson. Fortunately, the community has made a fantastic recovery.

One of the biggest concerns after the storm was all of the downed trees. Luckily the City of Garretson as well as some charitable organizations and locals helped each other move the trees to the Athletic Complex parking lot.

All of the trees have since been ground up by the county to be used for producing wood-requiring objects like paper.

The Athletic Complex itself also sustained large amounts of damage. Because of the consistent 80+ mph wind speeds, the lights were either damaged or destroyed.

"We plan on having the lights back up on October 1st," said Superintendent Guy Johnson.

Due to this setback a few adjustments have been made. The Blue Dragon football team pushed up their start time to 5:00 as to make sure they were able to complete the game before it became too dark to play.

Soccer has also had to alter their original plan. For their first game of the season, they had to borrow a field in Brandon, as the turf at the Athletic Complex had yet to be "cleared to play."

Not only were the poles damaged, but the glass protecting the lights broke as well. This caused shards of glass to imbed in the turf. Thanks to a full community effort where volunteers combed the field shoulder to shoulder, the turf and complex are back open for play.

Johnson also said, "The biggest charges are at the Complex." The financial charges he is referring to is roughly around \$400,000. The lights themselves are \$250,000 overall.

There was also damages at the school. One of the fifth grade rooms had a branch crash through the window which caused the pressure in the room to push up and bend the steel frame; this also caused the bricks around it to break and crack.

"It cost at least \$10,000 to repair the bricks," said Johnson, "and unfortunately, some of the construction companies we have hired have other jobs they need to also work on."

There are other areas that are still waiting to be fixed, including a fence in the parking lot. Luckily, the roof project that was scheduled for this summer anyway was able to be completed



Community volunteers rallied together on Sunday, August 23 to crawl along the turf at the Athletic Complex, scouring for any remaining pieces of glass that had found its way onto the field during the summer storm at the end of June.

Photo Courtesy of Garretson Blue Dragon Facebook page

on time, despite a setback with supplies windblown around the city.

Hopefully, the lights will be back up on time for the second half of the football season, and the recovery has come full circle.



Blue Dragons Soccer has a Rough Beginning, Hope for Final Games

By Alex Uhl

Continued from page 2

Sophomore Peyton Sage said, "They absolutely left a large gap in the team" because of the loss of teammates from injury and graduation.

The Lady Blue Dragons lost their well as of late.

previous games: Groton 0-6, Tea 1-5, Sioux Falls Christian 0-1, Vermillion 0-10, and Brandon 0-6. But many believe that a comeback is definitely in their future as they have been playing really

The Lady Blue Dragons take on the West Central Trojans on Tuesday and then get a chance at redemption against Vermillion on the 14th. Good Luck Ladies!

Blue Dragons Fall to Fliers in Season Opener

By Brianna Callsen

As the Blue Dragons try to rebuild their team after losing eight seniors last year, they stepped out onto the field to play the Chester Flyers last Friday.

Chester received early votes to be ranked in the state for the preseason poll and they showed why by scoring an early touchdown in the beginning of the game.

That didn't stop the Blue Dragons though as sophomore Keisean Deehr-Thornton scored one to tie up the game not too long after.

Chester continued to fight hard, tacking on five more trips to the end zone, as the Blue Dragons only were able to put up six more points.

Garretson lost their season and home opener 12-41.

Coach Steckler said, "We were average at best, we did some things well but there were a lot of things we need improvement on."



The Chester Flyers took advantage of a young Blue Dragon line, finding holes for their run game all night, working their way to a 41-12 win over the home Garretson Blue Dragons.

Photo by Sylvia Larson



Junior quarterback Shay Gibson attempts to juke around the Chester defense to find an opening on a QB sneak.

Photo by Sylvia Larson

Senior Sean Tillma reiterated that sentiment. "Being a young team we have a lot of flaws and improvement to do."

Coach Steckler said, "We must improve fundamentals on the offense, defense, special teams, and we must become a mentally tougher team."

Tillma and Sophomore MJ Vandersnick agreed that fundamentals, specifically blocking and moving defense closer, were the areas that needed the most attention before their next competition.

The Dragons continue the season tonight at Centerville; both teams are looking for their first win.