



## An Ending to an Era

By Jennie Hegge

On Monday night, the boys faced off against the Sioux Falls Christian Chargers. Even though the speed of the game was a fast one, and they kept up the whole time, they just couldn't make a shot. Sioux Falls Christian just outrebounded and outshot the Garretson boys, especially at that three point line. With our boys coming out on bottom, the final score ended up being 67-47, making our record 11-9.

Head Coach, Mr. Ganschow had some thoughts on the game. "SFC shot well all over the field. We had a hard time keeping them from scoring. Some nights are like that, but we will do a better job the second time around."

It was not only the last regular season home game, but it was also senior night! "Bittersweet," commented seniors Conner Blossmo and Jesse Brockhouse.

Senior night is a night to recognize and thank the seniors for all their contributions they have given throughout the last four years.

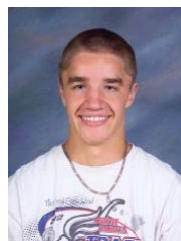
The Garretson Blue Dragons boys' squad has three seniors this year: Conner Blossmo, Austin Matthiesen, and Jesse Brockhouse.

"Our three seniors have always been key contributors to the success of our program during their four years. During the past three seasons they've been excellent role players behind very talented upperclassmen. This year they've taken on more of a leadership role and have each done a commendable job of leading a pretty inexperienced team to success," commented Ganschow.

Blossmo is a 5'9" starting point guard. He has been playing basketball for 8 years. He averages 12 points per game, 3.1 assists per game,



Conner Blossmo



Austin Matthiesen



Jesse Brockhouse

and 4 rebounds per game. With those great stats, it is only obvious that Blossmo brings "unity" to the team.

Now, let me tell you a little bit about Blossmo himself. His favorite thing about the game is to "bomb up three balls." The thing he will miss the most about basketball is "bonding with teammates and just being able to play it." Now, he'll still be able to play basketball, but it just won't be the same. "I'll still shoot around and everything and play intramurals in college."

Blossmo is attending SMSU in the fall to run track and has an undecided major. If there is one thing he has learned from the game that he will take with him in everyday life, it would be this: "Always have a positive attitude no matter what, because it will take you a long ways."

Matthiesen is a 5'11" starting forward. He has been playing basketball for 8 years. He averages 12.2 points per game, 1.6 assists per game, and 7.8 rebounds per game. Matthiesen says he brings "hops" to the team. That probably comes in handy, especially when his favorite part about the game is, "snaggin' the boards."

You probably want to know a little bit about Matthiesen now. Well, for starters, what is he going to miss the most about the sport? "Winning." We all like a positive attitude like that! He does plan to still be involved in basket-

ball though. "I'll shoot around, pick up games, and intramurals." Let's hope he dominates those intramurals, so he can get that feeling back of what it's like to win again!

Matthiesen is going to be attending SDSU in the fall for landscape architecture. The one thing that he will carry with him throughout the rest of his life that basketball taught him is this; "To win, you need to use team work."

Brockhouse is a 5'10" starting guard. He has been playing basketball for 8 years. He averages 12.1 points per game, 3.2 assists per game, and 3 rebounds per game. What does Brockhouse bring to the game? "Defense and getting up and down the court." That is an essential thing to bring to the team since "ballin' as the G-town trifecta," is his favorite thing.

Brockhouse has one main thing that he is going to miss, and that is the "competition." He is planning to attend SDSU in the fall for construction management, and will try to play baseball.

"You have to put in work to see results." That is the one thing that Brockhouse has learned from playing basketball, and will also carry it with him throughout his life.

The Garretson Boys basketball team has been so fortunate to have those three boys with them these last four years! Their next game is Tuesday against SFC; and it could possibly be the last time we see them play, so ya'll better be there.

We wish the best of luck to the boys' basketball team on their first round in regions next Tuesday at Sioux Falls Christian!

## Science Fair Fun!

By Joshua Liester

The Garretson Middle School students have all been using their brains the past several months asking questions, compiling data, and putting together display boards all in preparation for the annual science fair!

For the science fair, students must conduct an experiment and present what they found out to a group of judges. They also have to keep a journal of what they did throughout the process, write an abstract summarizing their project, and put together an informative presentation board filled with graphs, pictures, and other information that helps explain their project.

The judges, which consist of a combination of SDSU ambassadors, local adults, and high school seniors, pick the projects they think deserve to go on to the regional science fair,

which is in Brookings on April 1<sup>st</sup>. A total of about 60 students from Garretson will have the opportunity to present their projects on that day.

Middle school science teacher, Mrs. Mueller, is in charge of the local science fair and thinks it is important for students to have this experience. "It makes them go outside the classroom to look into something they are interested in," said Mueller. "They can have fun doing it too."

Eighth grader, Nick Lundberg, along with his partners Marc Rattenborg and Ryan Fick, tested the strength of different bridge designs using popsicle sticks for their project. Lundberg said he enjoyed doing their project



because "we got to destroy bridges." By doing the experiment, Lundberg says they learned that "bridges can hold a lot of weight." He was confident that his group would make it to the regional contest.

Abby Schroeder and Kendra Kleven, sixth graders taking their first shot at the science fair, tested whether boys or girls were better at reading color words written in different colored ink. For example, the word "red" would be written in blue ink and subjects would try to tell the color of the ink. It's a lot harder than you would think! When all the results were tallied up, the duo found out that guys were better at it than girls. While Schroeder wasn't as confident as Lundberg that her project would make it to regions, she said she still had fun doing it.

## Jumping for Joy

By Mary Christian



The Lady Blue Dragons are dribbling into regions to shoot it out with five other teams to take a step closer to state. With a bye week to prepare, the ladies hit the practice floor to get ready to play the Sioux Falls Christian Chargers this Thursday at 8:00 at Tea Area.

Our region consists of six teams: Dell Rapids Quarries, Sioux Falls Christian Chargers, Flandreau Flyers, Madison Bulldogs, Flandreau Indian School, and our very own Garretson Blue Dragons.

The Lady Blue Dragons are facing the Sioux Falls Christian Chargers. These two teams have seen each other before.

On January 21st the Lady Dragons traveled to Sioux Falls to play the Chargers. The girls battled all the way though the game but couldn't pull it out and ended up losing 41 to 50.

"To many turn over killed our chances and we just didn't show up to play," referred Telia Carnicle about the this game.

With the first region game the Lady Blue Dragons are looking for revenge on the Chargers. Although they are nervous about the game, "if we play as a team we will do fine," commented Haley Edmundson.

Tuesday night Sioux Falls Christian battled with Flandreau Indian School and won 65-35. This game was used for "working on a scouting report to look over our opponent so we can defeat them," said Coach Kevin Steckler.

These girls took the scouting report to the practice floor to give them an advantage over their opponent. Head Coach Dave Mudder prepared the girls by "reviewing the last game, making changes that were needed, working on

defense, and the little things," to get these girls ready for their game.

Going into the game the girls were confident. "As long as we play together and play to our best, we can beat them," said Edmundson.

Coach Mudder seems to have the same view on this game saying, "As long as we do the little thing we can compete with anyone."

Last night our girls took to the court with intensity, played their hearts out, and gave it their all. They worked all season for this game and came out with a win, 48-42.

Their hard work in practice paid off, so they will be advancing to the final round of regions. They will play Thursday, March 6th against #5 Madison Bulldogs at 6:30 at the Tea Area High School. We congratulate these girls for their hard work and effort! Make sure you are their for their next region game.

## Students Experience Government First Hand

By Teila Carnicle

Girls' and Boys' State is an event that a select few students from various schools around South Dakota get to attend.

Girls' and Boys' State is a program that teaches students how government works while learning leadership skills and an appreciation for your rights as a citizen.

While the students are there, they will be running for office, learning public speaking, creating and enforcing laws and actively participating in all phases of creating and running a working government.

Chris Long, middle school and high school principal, believes this program benefits the students who go in many ways! "First of all, it is a great way to get an understanding of the American term of government, and also gives you a feeling of the responsibilities of citizens."

Long also believes that this will help them in the long run. "The biggest help it brings is getting experience in a college setting."

He went on to say, "It helps getting to know a lot of different students and taking on rolls you don't get to have in your local schools."

Hearing from students who have gone in the past, Long said that the most beneficial aspect of the program is that "students are often surprised that they had as much fun as they did, and it really enforces leadership qualities with those who attend."

Kara Ellefson, a senior who attended Girls' State last year, "encourages juniors to go; it looks good on your college applications."

Ellefson went on to say that even though it looks good on an application, she "didn't enjoy it because [she doesn't] like government."

On the other hand Ellefson did take something from the experience. "The most fun part was meeting new people."

Alex Thorson, also a senior who attended Boys' State the previous year, shared the same thoughts with Ellefson by stating that he "did

enjoy it, but not for the right reasons." Thorson said his favorite part of the whole program was "meeting new people and nap time!"

Based on their experiences both Thorson and Ellefson encourage juniors to attend. Bailey Willems, a junior hoping to be accepted to this program, says she's "hopeful in going."

Willems added that she has heard a lot about Girls' State and agrees with Thorson that meeting new people would be the best part!

"Well, I also heard it will look good on college applications," Willems reiterating Ellefson's thoughts.

Girls' State takes place at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion; Boys' State takes place at Northern State University in Aberdeen, so for those interested, see Mr. Long for more details on how you can get a chance to up your college application and get a once in a lifetime government experience!

## NFL Rookies' Time to Shine

By Wyatt Fink

The draft is getting closer, but first, the rookies have to go through the NFL combine. The purpose of the combine, is for NFL scouts to find players that could work with their system.

Some of the drills they do are the forty yard dash, a vertical jump, a three-cone drill, bench press, 20 yard dash, and the 10 yard dash.

Johnny Manziel QB from Texas A&M, Teddy Bridgewater QB from Louisville and Jadeveon Clowney DE from South Carolina are just some of the main players attending the combine.

Juniors Matt Johnson and Tanner Gutzmer love watching the combine. Everybody has a favorite player they like to watch. Gutzmer said

he liked to watch Clowney, a defensive end from South Carolina, because "his 40 time was better than some running backs times."

English teacher Mr. Hughes agrees with Gutzmer. He wants to watch Tyler Starr, a line-backer from the University of South Dakota, and Aaron Donald, defensive line man from the University of Pittsburgh. He also said that "guys need to do well to move up in the draft boards."

Representing the state of South Dakota is linebacker Tyler Starr. Starr is from Iowa and went to USD for four years. He played 11 out of 12 games this year. He was awarded the MVFC player of the year. Starr has 27 career sacks and

had 9 sacks this year. He had 71 tackles this year and 4 INTs. In the FCS awards, he placed 16th in sacks and 25th in total tackles.

There are ups and downs in the combine, Johnson said his let down was a running back from Kent State Dri Archer. "He didn't run fast enough."

Hughes said "I don't have expectations for people, I just watch to see how their doing".

Everybody has a drill that they like to watch. Hughes stated, "The 40's, they give you a sense of someone's speed".

Tune in to the NFL draft on May 8th to watch if your team drafts the player you want.

## NSIC Basketball Preview

By Katie Giesler

"I would like to go because I just love watching college basketball! I watch it at home all the time!" quoted by high school science teacher, Geof Furness.

"Yeah, I'd go!" added sophomore, Micah Mader. "I want to see NSF win."

Are you planning on heading to the Sanford Pentagon any day from March 1st through the 4th? If not, you should put it into consideration because the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) tournament will be going on!

In case you're not familiar with it, the NSIC is an athletic conference that takes place in the Midwest. Nine members of the conference are out of Minnesota, three are from South Dakota, two from North Dakota, and one member from Iowa and Nebraska each.

The NSIC participates in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)'s Division II level and was founded in 1932.

This conference is one of the largest Division II conferences in the country with 16 members!

The conference sponsors 18 sports (10 for women and eight for men). Both men and women compete in basketball, cross country, golf, and indoor and outdoor track and field. Men compete in baseball, football and wrestling, while women compete in soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis and volleyball.

Coming up is the conference basketball tournament, and it's sure to be a good one!

For the men's north division, teams, seeded in order, include Minnesota State University-Moorhead, Bemidji State, St. Cloud State, Northern State, University of Mary, Minot State, and University of Minnesota-Crookston.

For the men's south division, teams, seeded in order, are Minnesota State-Mankato, Winona State, Southwest Minnesota State, Upper Iowa, Augustana, University of Sioux Falls, Wayne State, and Concordia University-St. Paul.

For the women's north division, teams, seeded in order, are Northern State, Minot State, University of Mary, St. Cloud State, Minnesota State University-Moorhead, University of Minnesota-Duluth, University of Minnesota-Crookston, and Bemidji State.

For the women's south division, teams, seeded in order, include Wayne State, Minnesota State-Mankato, Concordia University-St. Paul, Augustana, University of Sioux Falls, Winona State, Upper Iowa, and Southwest Minnesota State.

The first round was held on Wednesday, February 26th.

Women's teams moving on to the second day of the official conference tournament are Northern State, Augustana, Wayne State, NSF, Minot State, Concordia State, U-Mary, and Minnesota State-Mankato.

Men's teams moving onto the second day of the conference are Minnesota State-Moorhead,

Upper Iowa, Winona State, St. Cloud State, Minnesota State-Mankato, Augustana, Wayne State, and Southwest Minnesota State.

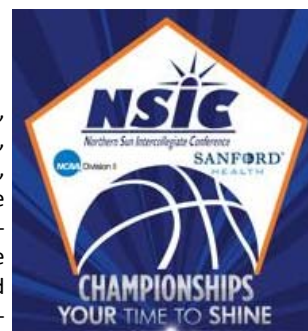
Continuing on Monday will be the semifinals (games at 12:00, 2:30, 6:00, and 8:30 p.m.) with the championship games finishing off the tournament days on Tuesday (games at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m.).

For men, the top three seeded teams and most likely to win are Minnesota State-Moorhead, Winona State and Minnesota State-Mankato. The top three seeded women's teams most likely to win are Wayne State, Minnesota State-Mankato, and Northern State.

Tuesday is the championship at the Sanford Pentagon. The women's championship game will take place at 5:00 p.m. and the men will play afterwards at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is \$15.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors (62 and older), \$5.00 for students, and children five and under are free. If you still want an all-season pass, it's \$84.00.

If you're planning on going to any of these games, relay the details because this will sure be a tournament to watch!



## Mudder Earns A.C.E. Honors

Brianna Mudder is a junior on the Garretson Lady Blue Dragons basketball team.

This season she has been a consistent contributor on the boards and defensive end of the floor.

Mudder's greatest strength is the positive role she has played with everyone associated with the girls' basketball program.

She not only excels on the basketball court, but in the classroom as well where her work ethic has placed her as one of the top students in her class.



March Sayings

## Student Opinion Poll

Today is the last day of February. Which saying about March do you believe to be most accurate this year?



- If March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb
- A dry march and a wet May will fill barns with corn and hay
- As it rains in March, so it rains in June
- March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers.

Stop by Mrs. Buchholz's or Mr. Hughes' rooms next week to vote in next week's student opinion poll. The polls will be located inside the rooms.

ANSWERS:

Brain Teaser: 1, 2, 3

Joke: Because they're really good at it.

## Edmundson Recieves PRIDE

Haley Edmundson, a senior at GHS, has been very involved at school and in the community. She is a model student, a dedicated participant in co-curricular activities including basketball, volleyball, track and field, and FCA. She is involved in yearbook and was a mentor for two years at the school.



Edmundson is a member of Palisade Lutheran Church and teaches Sunday school. She is also a member of the Lutheran Youth Organization and has been involved in the local 4-H club.

Her dedication to these activities is paralleled by a strong commitment to her education. Edmundson holds the highest GPA in her class and has taken a rigorous course load.

Her future plans are to attend a four year university majoring in exercise science or physical therapy.