



Garretson Cross Country hosted the Jesse James Invitational earlier this week.

Blue Ink



Injured Garretson harriers find some diamonds in the rust

Billions of dollars in damage, thousands misplaced after one of the worst natural disasters in US history

by **Mason Hofer**
staff writer

This last Tuesday Cross Country had its third meet of the season. The first meet was held in Beresford, SD, and the second was held in McCook, SD. However this week the Garretson harriers held home course advantage as the race was at the River Ridge Golf Course.

For the girls team, Garretson has had two of its main runners sit out of in previous meets, Carmen Bohl and Rachel Kindt, due to injuries they are working through. They both ran in the most recent meet but are not 100% yet. Both Bohl and Kindt were key performers in the Blue Dragons run to last year's state meet.

"I'm struggling to comeback" stated sophomore runner Rachel Kindt. "It's taken a toll on the performance, I know how well I can and should be performing."

Regardless of not feeling like she is able to put out peak performances, Kindt still led the Blue Dragons on Tuesday running the 5k in 21:36 for an 11th place finish.

Right behind her was Bohl, coming across the finish line in 21:39.

Rounding out the varsity performances were Olivia Mullen (23rd, 22:20) and Madisen Nordstrom (32nd, 23:22).

On the JV side for the girls, sophomore Geraldine Fry continued her steady improvement, finishing seventh out of 82 harriers. Fry also cut her time from last year's meet by four minutes. Kaci Danforth (22nd), two minutes better than last year, and Sara Welch (30th) also finished the meet with improved times compared to their first meets this season.



Sophomore Madisen Nordstrom powers through on her final lap. Nordstrom finished with a time of 23:22, two seconds behind her

The boys, too, are struggling to field a full team after losing quite a few runners to graduation last year. However there are some young runners that are showing promise.

One of the main guys who have stepped up to fill the spots is seventh grader Preston Bohl. In his first JV meet he placed 2nd, and in his second JV meet he placed 1st.

After these strong performances Bohl was bumped up to varsity for the home meet earlier this week. In Bohl's first varsity meet he placed eighth with a time of 18:14.

Devon Leedy finished one and a half minutes behind Bohl for Garretson's second runner and then



Preston Bohl didn't hold back in his first varsity meet. The seventh grader led the Blue Dragons and came away with an eighth place finish.

Photo by Mason Hofer

Ryan Fick capped off the varsity runners with a time of 20:24.

The JV boys have also been running well, including Matthew Gilbert. Gilbert took third at the JV meet in a field of 113 runners.

With some injuries for the elite runners, and some new talent stepping up and filling the spots, this will be and

interesting year for Cross Country. Garretson's next meet is in Luverne, at the Luverne Country Club, tomorrow.



Watch this video for a highlight reel of the Garretson Cross Country team's performances during the Jesse James Invitational on Tuesday, September 5. Scan the QR Code or click on this link: <https://vimeo.com/233006580>

Video reel shot, edited, & compiled by Mason Hofer

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: If a piece of clothing has static cling, put a safety pin in it. The static will instantly go away.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: What's a thesaurus' favorite breakfast?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: What can you hold without ever touching or using your hands?

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Friday, September 8**
 - Football v. Marion/Menno (7:00)
- Saturday, September 9**
 - VB @ BEC-in Chester (6:00)
 - XC @ Luverne Invite (2:30)
- Monday, September 11**
 - Homecoming—Class Color Day
 - School Board Mtg (5:45)
 - Coronation (7:00)
 - Powder Puff (8:00)
- Tuesday, September 12**
 - Homecoming—Parents Day
 - JH/JV Football v. Marion/Menno (4:00)
 - Soccer v. Vermillion (5:00)
 - JH VB v. Flandreau (4:00)
 - VB v. Flandreau (5:00/6:15/7:00)
- Wednesday, September 13**
 - Homecoming—G Day
- Thursday, September 14**
 - Homecoming—Thrift Store Day
 - XC @ Chamberlain (2:30)
 - JH VB v. West Central (4:00)
 - VB v. West Central (5:00/6:15/7:00)
 - Soccer v. Dakota Valley (6:00)
- Friday, September 15**
 - Homecoming—Blue Dragon Day
 - Community Parade & Pep Rally (1:15)
 - School Dismisses @2:30
 - FB v. Hanson (7:00)

Worth Mentioning

Homecoming week starts next week. Elementary dress up days are a bit different. Monday: Class Color Day; Tuesday: Sports Day; Wednesday: PJ Day; Thursday: Tourist Day; Friday: Blue and White Day

Repeats, rivalries and redemption on the mind of many football faithful

From a "blown" Super Bowl victory to suspensions to fantasy drafts, the NFL is back

by **Brayden Mutcher**
staff writer

With NFL starting this week, there's a lot of talk on how teams are going to do.

Last year's Super Bowl champions, the New England Patriots, are missing one of their best wide receivers, Julian Edelman, who is out for the season with a torn ACL. Whether that contributed to their stunning loss to the Kansas City Chiefs in the NFL season opener yesterday is yet to be determined.

There are going to be some pretty good first games of the season this weekend and how the Atlanta Fal-

cons are going to recover after their tragic loss against the Patriots in Super Bowl 51 is one of the biggest questions out there.

Other big reservations include how the Dallas Cowboys are going to perform if Ezekiel Elliott's six-game suspension is upheld. Elliott was charged with domestic violence in August. He was found not guilty due to a lack of evidence; however, the league still put him under suspension. Elliott is currently ap-

pealing so he is able to play Sunday against the Giants. After that, his future this season is uncertain.

Regardless of how the season itself shakes out, fantasy football is back in swing and seems to continue its trend of generating more interest every year. According to the New York Post over 75 million people will participate in fantasy football this year. Some of these leagues are just friendly competitions while others have higher stakes.



Soccer team sees success

The Blue Dragons take down the Tigers for their first win of the season

by **Peyton Sage**
staff writer

Midway through the soccer season, the GHS soccer team has a 1-5-0 record. Garretson traveled to Huron last Saturday where the varsity team got their first win of the season. They beat the varsity team 2-0 and the JV team 1-0.

Senior defender Jaden Braaten commented on the Huron game, "We played well but we definitely played down to their level. If we would've stepped it up, it would've been an even better game. However, we're incredibly excited about adding a win to our record against a brand new team."

On Tuesday, the Dragons competed against West Central, the number one team in Class A and reigning state champions, losing 5-1.

"Our biggest challenge was that they were more prepared and in better shape than us, but the score does not do justice for the way we played against them. I think we did amazing," senior goalie, Jazmin

Gawarecki stated.

With senior defender Amyah Ockenga sitting out due to shin splints, the defensive positions had to make a few adjustments to their formation in the last two games.

"The defense did a very good job stepping up in places that they were not very comfortable in. They didn't let up against some very hard teams and kept fighting all 80 minutes of the game," Ockenga said.

The soccer girls have three games next week, all at home, where they hope to get three more wins. They will face Vermillion, Dakota Valley, and Groton..

The Blue Dragons took on Vermillion to open the season and finished with a 0-2 loss. Garretson is looking for redemption during this rematch.

Dakota Valley is a new team on the schedule this year. Garretson hosts on Thursday.

On Saturday, for the Cancer Awareness game, Garretson hosts Groton and are looking to be more physical with the team that beat them earlier this year 3-0.



Senior Amyah Ockenga (#14) was out with shin splints during their latest match but hopes to return to the field soon. She has been a key defender for the Blue Dragon soccer team.

Photo by Sylvia Larson

Schleuter cements her name in Garretson Volleyball record books

Emily Schleuter tallied 1,000 digs during the first week of her senior year

by **Isaiah Miles Mader**
staff writer

Two weeks ago, at the annual tournament held in Canton, senior Emily Schleuter recorded her 1,000th

dig while wearing a Garretson uniform. This was an accomplishment she has been striving toward ever since she began her varsity career as a freshman.

Schleuter said, "I've always had

my goal, but I really never thought I would get there. It's been something to reach for and make me better; I'm glad it happened my senior year."

The Garretson volleyball team has greatly benefited from Schleuter's contributions, not only because of her skill, but also because of her leadership to the very young team.

Schleuter stated, "It's a cool feeling to be in the GHS record books, I'm trying to get a lot more so the younger kids have a goal to chase."

Although her future plans are still undecided she has more goals set for the remainder of the season. Schleuter added, "One of the biggest things is to end the season strong, I want the best for my last year."

The senior libero is the all-time leader for digs with 1,074 in her four year career. This milestone is certainly not the end of Schleuter's career. With over half the season left, she has potential to raise the bar even higher for future and current volley-



Emily Schleuter holds her sign made by her teammates after she made her 1,000th career dig at the Canton tournament versus Sioux Falls Lincoln JV. Schleuter is Garretson's all-time dig leader.

Photo by Heather Huether



Emily picks up one of her 131 so far this season in recent match play. Photo by Sylvia Larson

Homecoming week is almost here

Plenty of activities and chances to show school spirit throughout the week

by **Gregorio Arana**
staff writer

Homecoming is next week, are you ready? There are a lot of events next week including athletics from powderpuff and ruff & tuff to the competitive school sports of soccer, cross country, volleyball, and football. This doesn't count all the other events like the parade, Dragon Olympics, or coronation.

Coming off the heels of the cross country team's home meet almost all the games next week are also at home. Homecoming week everyone in soccer, volleyball, and football, has a chance to showcase their skills

at home.

Soccer has three home games next week: Tuesday against Vermillion, Thursday against Dakota Valley, and Saturday versus Groton.

Volleyball has two home games next week. Parents Night will be on Tuesday as the Blue Dragons take on the Fliers of Flaudreau and on Thursday Garretson hosts West Central.

Next Friday is homecoming day and the football team plays Hanson, a new team to the schedule this year. They also have a game today at



home against Menno/Marion.

Cross country is the one exception. They hosted their home meet this week and will be travelling to Chamberlain on Thursday.

Athletes aren't the only ones who will be able to show off their talents

as the marching band gives the whole community a look at the payoff of those early morning rehearsals during the parade on Friday and then the halftime show during the football game.

Next week Monday kicks off

strong with powderpuff football, ruff & tuff volleyball and coronation. In powderpuff football last year the juniors (this year's senior class) won it all. Ruff & tuff volleyball is looking for a new champion as the boys of the Class of 2017 took home the trophy last year.

The dress up days bring back some classics and introduce a few new ones:

- Monday- Class Color Day
- Tuesday- Classic Parent Day
- Wednesday- G-Day
- Thursday- Thrift Store Thursday
- Friday- Spirit Day

The week is chalk-full of events during and after the school day.

People and paint dominate new changes to the school

With a few new hires, new students in the halls, and new flooring and a fresh coat of paint, Garretson welcomes changes during the new year

by Heather Huether
staff writer

This year there have been many changes around the school. Some of those changes include new flooring, teachers, and more.

There are some new paintings in the hallways of both the high school and elementary.

There is new flooring in the 4th and 5th grade hallway. The floors were once tile and are now carpet.

They also got some new lockers. Also benefiting from a facelift, or

middle-floor-lift, was the locker room hallway, new blue flooring has been added.

Head custodian Joel Swenson was integral in many of these changes. "We want to make it look nice, so as we go forward we're planning on

painting the classrooms a little at a time. Alyxa Hoefert (kindergarten teacher) and Moriah Flanagan (class of 2017) did most of the painting but some of the other janitors pitched in."

Swenson furthered, "I think there was about 40 gallons of paint that was used."

The most noticeable changes are in the elementary wing. The bright colors are very inviting and the students, staff, and parents have all seemed to enjoy the change.

While the middle and high school area didn't see as much variety in color, there were still noticeable changes, especially around the stairs. Even just splashes of color were great ways to break up the monotony of the beige that once covered the hallways.



Along the top and all the sides of the corners in the elementary you can find a traditional blue stripe (shown). However, each grade received a different color at the inlet of their doorways to add the pops of color.



Breaking up the traditional beige color, the middle and high school wing finally got a splash to break up the monotony. This pattern is present on both stairwell walls.

Not just the building has changed. There have been many new people welcomed into the school this year.

Ms. Pliska, Ms. Koskela, Ms. Henrikson, Ms. Williamson, and over a dozen new students all became Blue Dragons this year.

Ms. Pliska, the new middle and high school counselor said, "It's a roller coaster. Everyday is different and I love it. I'm a person that enjoys change."

She continued, "My favorite part is getting to know people and just being the person that can be trusted."

Ms. Koskela is the new Spanish teacher that Garretson shares with Baltic. She spends her mornings with the Bulldogs and her afternoons with the Blue Dragons.

Not only did we welcome people



The new mural down the kindergarten hallway matches the energy, youthfulness, and creativity that occupies the residents of the hallway.

Photo by Heather Huether

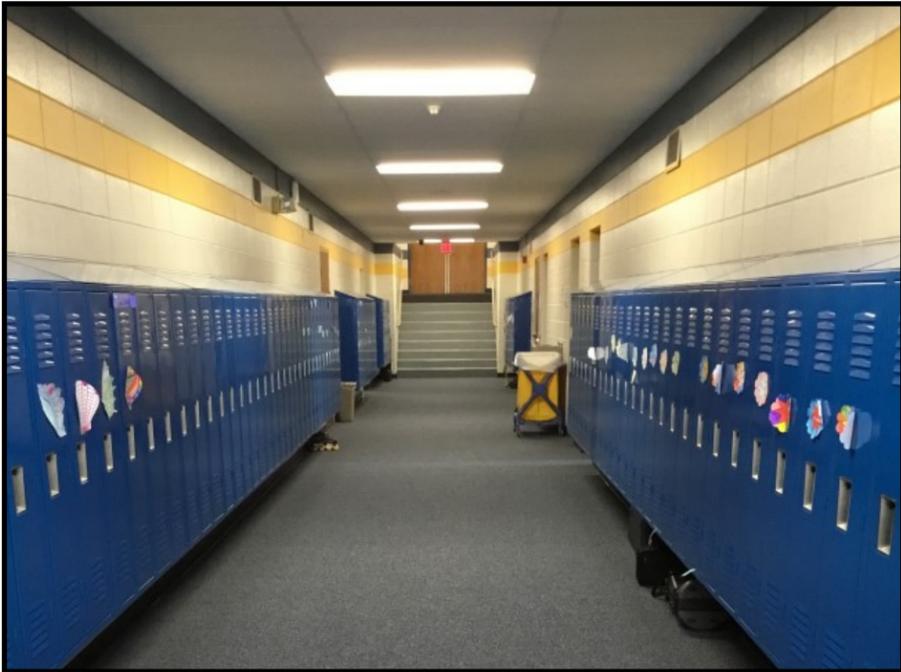
to the high school side, but there are two new teachers in the elementary as well.

Ms. Henrikson is pairing with Mr. Ruml in the fourth grade while Ms. Williamson joins Ms. Bly in third.

"It's nice to come back and be a little bit familiar with where

you're at sometimes," said Ms. Williamson, a Garretson alumni and the new third grade teacher, "The elementary part is new to me but a lot of my middle school teachers and high school teachers are still here."

In addition to the new teachers there are new students in about every grade throughout the school which is a promising sign at the growth, potential, and positivity surrounding Garretson.



The 4th and 5th grade hallway had a huge makeover this summer including new carpeting in the rooms and the hallway, new lockers, and a fresh coat of paint.

Royalty candidates announced

Five senior boys and five senior girls were selected by classmates as the royalty court.



Queen candidates are Eryn Fink, Mikayla Bottebergh, Anyah Ockenga, Carmen Bohl, and Madi Northrup. King candidates are Jack Konechne, Joshua Thomas, Marc Rattenborg, Nick Lundberg, and Diantae Lynn. King and Queen will be selected on Monday night at coronation.