

# At the Game



**BASKETBALL PLAYERS** Jacob Riedel, Tyler Lauer, Trent Kinen, Brett Lampe, Drew Zwegyardt, Trent Raile, Sam Sowers, Alex Long and Ben Neitzel are among those players who are listening intently to Coach Jeff Beims.

Herald staff photos by Betty Jean Winston

## Basketball season begins tonight in Benkelman

By Betty Jean Winston  
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The new high school basketball season begins today (Thursday). The Indians and Lady Indians will be traveling to Benkelman to meet the Dundy County Tigers and Lady Tigers.

It is not only a new season but both teams have new head coaches.

Larry Flemming, an assistant last year, has been named new head coach for the girls and Jeff Beims has taken over the position of new head boys coach. Ted Busse (girls) and Ward Cassidy (boys) resigned following the 2007-08 season.

Changes have also been made to the schedule this year. After attending the Oberlin Invitational for many years, the St. Francis athletes will not be making the trip to Oberlin three nights in January.

The Tumbleweed Classic in Brewster next week has switched from an eight-team tournament to a six-team event. The format has changed to pool play and the action will take place on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday instead of Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

St. Francis is in Pool B which also includes Brewster and Stratton. The Sainty Indians will meet Brewster on Monday night and Stratton on Tuesday night. All games are played in Brewster with the girls at 6 both nights and the boys at 7:30. Saturday game times will depend upon pool rankings.

Another new aspect this year, is the decision to play three home games in the high school on game night. Rather than play-

ing all junior varsity games at the grade school; there will be one junior varsity plus two varsity games played at the high school. Each week a junior varsity game will begin in the high school at 4:45 p.m. and at the same time the other junior varsity game will begin at the grade school.

If the junior varsity girls play one game at the high school they will play the next home game at the grade school. The same schedule works for the boys. If they play at the grade school one time they will play at the high school the next time.

Finally, the amount of quarters that a ball player can be on the court in a night has been changed from four to six, meaning a varsity player can play two quarters of junior varsity and four quarters of varsity ball, or any combination that equals six quarters.

New teams which have been added to the regular schedule include Golden Plains, Hayes Center, Neb., and Idalia. If St. Francis has played these teams before it was during tournament action.

As always, Sainty will meet each team in the Northwest Kansas League, which includes Colby, Goodland, Oakley, Oberlin, Hoxie, Rawlins County and Quinter, along with contests with Dundy County, Brewster, Wallace County, Weskan and Cheylin.

Following the road games to Benkelman and Brewster, Sainty fans will be able to welcome the teams home. They play Colby here on Tuesday, Dec. 16, and Oberlin on Friday, Dec. 19.

### Six Indian letter winners return

Six letter winners return to lead the Indians in their new campaign. Three seniors, Trent Kinen, Sam Sowers and Ethan Zwegyardt and three juniors, Trent Raile, Matt Raile and Alex Long, earned letters following the 2007-08 season.

Additional upperclassmen who will be counted on extensively include Jacob Riedel, senior, and Drew Zwegyardt and Ben Neitzel, juniors.

Ball players Ted Crabtree, Keaton Frewen and Chance Hobrock were May graduates from last year's team which finished with a 7-11 record.

"I think we will be all right," Coach Beims said. "We have experience which will help, plus competitive kids who want to win."

The coach feels that one of the biggest things the players have to do right now is learn a new style of play, a new program.

"We are playing basketball a little differently, but it is just a matter of time until they become familiar with the changes.

"I am cautiously optimistic. It will depend on how willing they are to work and their attitude about learning something new.

"It is important to play intel-

ligently, to know what to do, when to do it and why they are doing it.

Besides high school experience in the past, many players have been on St. Francis teams involved in the Atwood summer league each June.

When talking about the team's defense, Coach Beims said he had some players, such as Matt Raile, with good physical wing (arm) space, which will help.

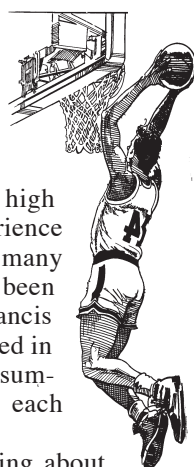
He feels that some of the younger players are not there yet skill wise but are willing to learn and are competitive.

"I am a little concerned about our depth early in the season."

The coach said he wants to "set the standards high"; to be four or five games about .500, make some noise at substate and see where it takes us.

"We have kids who want to win!"

There are enough younger



**THESE SENIORS**, who are all returning letter winners, are being counted on as team leaders. Pictured (l-to-r) are Joni

Pevler, Andrea Holzwarth, Elizabeth Gienger, Sidnee Crabtree and Jami Pevler.

players so hopefully some C-team games can be arranged during the season.

Among the players returning are some team leaders from last year such as Kinen, M. Raile and T. Raile, who were in the top five in field goal and free-throw shooting percentage and also total points scored during the season. T. Raile was just behind Crabtree in total rebounds and M. Raile was just behind Crabtree in total steals, with T. Raile and Kinen being third and fourth. M. Raile was number three in assists.

Although Coach Beims is in his first year leading the varsity, he is a familiar coach in the school system as he has led the junior high boys football team, and worked with junior high and

junior varsity basketball teams.

Assisting again this year will be Devin Dinkel, who also has coaching experience, including leading the girls team as varsity coach. Football and track coaching are among his other athletic responsibilities.

The complete roster includes: Seniors: Kinen, Sowers, E. Zwegyardt, Riedel.

Juniors: T. Raile, M. Raile, Long, D. Zwegyardt, Neitzel.

Sophomores: Garrett Figgins, Brett Lampe, Brooks Hobrock, Braden Schmid, Cody Killingsworth, Tyler Lauer, Ryan Owens and Zach Zwegyardt.

Freshmen: Isaac Schiltz, Ty Zwegyardt, Brock Zwegyardt, Martin Hnizdil, Jonathan Butler, Aaron Nichols, Gavin Cooper, Sam Reed.

### Lady seniors stepping up

"We have had some hard practices," Coach Flemming said. "The girls are working hard and I have a good group of senior leaders who are stepping up and doing a good job."

These seniors, who are all returning letter winners include Sidnee Crabtree, Elizabeth Gienger, Andrea Holzwarth, Jami Pevler and Joni Pevler.

Coach Flemming is familiar with most of the girls, having been the junior varsity coach.

This group of seniors is experienced as they carried the ball for the Lady Indians last year when there were no graduating senior players on the squad.

When viewing the 2007-08 statistics, Jami Pevler and Holzwarth had the two top field goal percentages; Crabtree has the best free-throw shooting percentage; Crabtree, Holzwarth and Gienger were the top three scorers; Crabtree and Jami Pev-

ler led in rebounds; Crabtree and Gienger in steals and Crabtree in assists.

Three other returning letter winners have reported for practice including Kaycee Williams, a junior, and Jodie Hilt and Sarah Trembly, sophomores.

J. Hilt and Williams were second and third in free-throw shooting percentage last year.

Three foreign exchange students are members of the squad. Ksenia Lelesh is a senior and Kristin Froberg and Charlotte Roosen are juniors.

"We have a good group of sophomores this year," Coach Flemming said.

"The attitude of the players is just great. They want to compete. The senior girls are already showing their leadership in early practice sessions."

The coach said that they do not have a lot of height at the varsity level but the amount of experi-

ence the players have is good.

The coach and the players have been so busy with practice sessions they have not set goals for the year so far.

Last year the team ended the season with a 3-15 overall record and they had taken to the floor with no senior leadership or experience.

Coach Flemming said there is eight home games this year. This will give the Sainty fans a number of opportunities to support the team.

He feels that having no junior varsity games playing at the same time the high school varsity teams are playing will be a very good thing, giving everyone (junior varsity players and fans) the chance to see varsity games.

In the past, Coach Flemming has worked with the junior varsity boys at St. Francis and was assistant coach at Dundy County for four years, where he worked with the varsity girls and the junior high girls and junior high boys.

Coach Susan Dinkel is back

assisting with the girl's team this year. She was the high school basketball girls assistant from 1998 to 2003 (she was also high school volleyball assistant at this time) and again in 2005 before returning this year. Prior to coming to St. Francis she was seventh grade volleyball coach at Monticello Trails Middle School in Shawnee and junior high basketball and high school volleyball assistant at Cheylin.

The complete girls roster includes:

Seniors: Crabtree, Gienger, Holzwarth, Lelesh, Jami Pevler, Joni Pevler.

Juniors: Kristin Froberg, Charlotte Roosen, Kaycee Williams.

Sophomores: Mikaela Grace, Christina Hilt, Jodie Hilt, Shayla Hilt, Aly Marin, Sarah Trembly.

Freshmen: Tilyn Bell, Kaitlin Figgins, Jacquelyn Ketzner, Ashlynn Lambert, Christina Schoenrogge.

Allison Grice and Trista Orth are the managers and Dale Northrup and Caitlin Northrup will be doing the filming..

### School Menu

#### Monday 8

Breakfast: pancakes and sausage bites, cereal assortment, milk.

Lunch: sausage, pepperoni, or cheese pizza, corn, pears, Bavarian creme mousse, milk.

#### Tuesday 9

Breakfast: peanut butter and jelly uncrustables, juice, cereal assortment, milk.

Lunch: cheeseburger, lettuce, tomato, onion and pickles, potato chips, baked beans, oranges, milk.

#### Wednesday 10

Breakfast: biscuits with sausage gravy, juice, cereal assortment, milk.

Lunch: French dip sandwich,

au jus, cheddar fries, dill pickle spears, applesauce, brownie, milk.

#### Thursday 11

Breakfast: fruit turnovers, juice, cereal assortment, milk.

Lunch: baked potato bar, chili, cheese, broccoli, sour cream, garlic toast, tropical fruit, milk.

#### Friday 12

Breakfast: breakfast pizza, juice, cereal assortment, milk.

Lunch: turkey bacon wrap, lettuce, tomato, cheese, tator tots, sliced peaches, chocolate no-bake cookie, milk.

• Salad bar is offered at noon daily in the junior/senior high school