

Kenmare elementary enrollment at highest point in a decade

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DEFENDING STATE CHAMPIONS

Honkers open new season with Coal Country championship

By Caroline Downs

The Kenmare High School varsity volleyball team backed up their 2009 state championship status by claiming the Coal Country Tournament title in Hazen on Saturday.

The Honkers emerged undefeated in pool play, topping Divide County, Stanley and Linton 2-0 in each match.

Kenmare moved into the Gold Division bracket, paired up against Our Redeemer's Christian School in the first round. The Honkers topped the Knights 2-1, then swept Stanley 2-0 in semi-finals.

The KHS squad faced Linton for the second time that day and claimed the championship with a 2-0 win.

For the tournament, Katie King led a balanced Honkers attack with 57 kills. Halie Nelson had 31, Erika Lemere 24, Ashley Barnhart 19 and Kortni Miller 12.

Setter Lexie Munson steered the offense with 126 assists.

At the net, King put up 13 blocks, with 1 apiece from Barnhart and Munson.

The Honkers also scored on several aces, including 14 from Nelson, 10 from Kiah Bauer, 8 from Munson, 8 by King, and 6 by Miller.

Kenmare head coach Tim Wallstrum was pleased with much of the team's performance on the court. "At times, we looked great," he said. "Our offense was fantastic. When we get the ball to our hitters, they're going to get it."

Kenmare's single loss of the day came against longtime rival, Our Redeemer's in one game, with the Honkers taking the match. "They served well in that set, and we didn't serve-receive well," Wallstrum said.

The Honkers faced a different challenge in the second set of the championship round against Linton, when setter Lexie Munson went down with a twisted ankle at a 20-17 Kenmare lead. Ashley Barnhart stepped into the setter's role, but changing her position shifted the entire team rotation.

Wallstrum said the team had discussed options if Munson ever had to leave the court, but the girls had not practiced the other scenarios so early in the season. He also noted that substituting JV setter Caleen Crider into the role at the end of this tournament would have jeopardized her tournament status for the rest of the season, a situation he preferred to avoid.

The Honkers stumbled in their roles with Munson out of the rotation, and Linton took advantage of the situation to add points to their total. "In a 5-1 offense, all the girls around the setter run the offense from where she is," said Wallstrum. "That's the beacon. I always tell my setters they're responsible for knowing where everyone else is supposed to be."

Munson returned with a taped ankle and Kenmare settled back into its game to win the set and the title.

Wallstrum described Linton as the best passing team in the tournament, but said the teams looked even for the most part. He wants to see the Honkers improve their passing and serve-reception, and to serve more aggressively, but he was generally pleased with their performance on the court. "If we pass the ball to our offense, we'll be fine," he said.

New season brings changes

Passing the ball may sound simple enough, but the Honkers graduated the best defensive line in the state last year with four seniors who refused to miss.

To make up for that loss, Coach Wallstrum has made some changes, beginning with the absence of a libero player in the off-color jersey. "It's a mistake to play a libero when you don't have one," he said. "We're going to play a full rotation."

Which means the hitters will be taking their turns in the back row, standing ready for the serve-reception and the passes to the front row. "Passing is the toughest skill, and I usually have the oldest



2010 KHS Volleyball Team . . . Front (l-r): Lexie Munson, Shelby Hass. Middle: Kiah Bauer, Ashley Barnhart, Caleen Crider, Alex Grosser, Halie Nelson, Katie King. Top: Erika Lemere, Kortni Miller.

girls doing it," Wallstrum said. "Spiking the ball is fun to watch, but if you don't have the passing game, you don't get the ball to your offense. Now, our former hitters will be responsible for getting the ball to someone else so they can hit. It's a different set of pressures."

He acknowledged the Honkers would give up some quickness with the absence of a libero, which the Kenmare team has used successfully for the past five seasons. "We're training some of the younger girls for that role in the future," he said, adding he expected Miller, Barnhart and Halie Nelson to transfer their skills and athleticism to the back row this year.

"We lacking experience back there right now, but by the end of the season, we're hoping to get close to that level [of last year's defense]," he said.

The Kenmare audience will see other changes, including Lemere hitting from the right side this year and Miller from the outside. "That's primarily for defensive reasons," Wallstrum said.

Munson will continue her role as setter for the varsity squad, but she will play the front row more often in the JV matches, polishing her hitting abilities. And astute fans may notice different colored balls used for play on some courts, with gray and light blue approved for official matches on a trial basis this season. "You won't see it in the state tournament and we won't do it here," Wallstrum said, "but you may see it other places."

The Honkers want to return to the state tournament and defend their title, but the team has to make its way through a full schedule of matches first. Wallstrum noted the Bottineau, Glenburn and Mohall-Lansford-Sherwood squads have new coaches this season, and, as always, Our Redeemer's will come to the court ready for anything the Honkers throw their way.

"It seems like their tradition in volleyball is like ours," said Wallstrum. "Every year, they're right with us, waiting for that year to get over us. They're a very athletic team and they play year-round. That makes them tough."

New leadership from the seniors

The 2010 KHS team also has four seniors, and they want to live up to the achievements of their predecessors. "We need to catch up to last year's back row," said Lemere,

"and find a way to fill the space for what we lost last year."

The four seniors described their younger teammates as hard-working and strong offensive players. "We're well-balanced," said King, "but we have to step up and do the work. This year, we have to take over."

Like Wallstrum, the senior Honkers recognize Our Redeemer's as their challenge in the region. They also talked about other schools going through their own transitions similar to Kenmare, with schools like Stanley picking up new players as enrollment increases.

"Several teams lost people," Bauer said.

"We don't know what's coming at us," added King.

The four agreed they liked playing the full rotation and exercising their defensive skills. They just hope the fans will continue their support. "You're going to see a team that loves to play volleyball," Miller said.

"We all have a heart for the game," Lemere added.

The girls also expressed appreciation for their coaches. "We couldn't do this without them," said Miller.

"They have big expectations," Lemere said, "and we want to live up to them."

2010 roster and schedule

The Honkers' leadership will stem from the seniors, including Kiah Bauer, Katie King, Erika Lemere and Kortni Miller.

Four juniors will see plenty of action on the court, with Ashley Barnhart, Caleen Crider, Alex Grosser and Halie Nelson.

Sophomores taking their places at the net include Morgan Goettle, Shelby Hass, Lexie Munson and Ramsi Moorhead.

Freshmen testing their wings as Honkers are Shantell Brekhus, McKenzie Chrest, Kennedy Fricke, Bailey Grosser, Kayla Halverson, Tayler Mau, Chelsea Nelson and Katie Nelson.

Maria Hager and Tayler Mau keep stats for the team, with Arianna Radomski managing the team book.

Faye Alexander has returned in her role as assistant coach for the Honkers.

The Kenmare squad has a full schedule this fall, with their first home match scheduled for September 7th, hosting the Stanley Blue Jays.

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TO THE RESCUE



Farm Rescue in the field . . . One of the Farm Rescue organization's combines was rolling Friday afternoon, harvesting wheat in a field farmed by Dennis Bauer five miles north of his home. Bauer was nominated for Farm Rescue assistance following the August 12th tornado and storm that destroyed his farmstead property and equipment.

Farm Rescue adds to the volunteer effort at Bauer farm

By Caroline Downs

Dennis Bauer stood at the edge of a wheat field Friday night, coordinating the work of two combines, a grain wagon and a semi-trailer harvesting the crop. One of the combines, a John Deere 9770 STS with a 35-foot header, flew the United States flag and the Farm Rescue organization banner.

"They're making good progress," he said.

Most of the equipment was Bauer's, spared from the August 12th EF3 tornado that destroyed his farmstead five miles south of the wheat field, east of Bowbells along U.S. Highway 52. He started making preparations for harvest earlier that week and had moved several implements to the fields, including his grain wagon, an auger, his two biggest grain trucks and a new combine. "I pulled the swather out of the yard that morning," he said.

However, with his house, the outbuildings, the rest of his farm vehicles and machinery, and 21 grain bins in ruins after the storm, neighbors nominated Bauer for the Farm Rescue program. "I don't know who put me up for it," he said, "but then Farm Rescue contacted me, and I filled out an application. They told me to put down what I thought would be ready for harvesting. I told them to just do as much as they feel they can do."

The Farm Rescue combine and three volunteers arrived Friday afternoon. "We got started about 2:30 pm," he said, "and finished about 200 acres of wheat."

Event staged at Bauer farmstead

Rainy and cool weather dampened Bauer's harvest efforts through the weekend, but Farm Rescue founder and president Bill Gross, director of operations Pam Musland, and about 25 volunteers held an event at Bauer's farmstead Monday morning.

Scores of friends and fam-

ily members spent days helping Bauer clear and pile large debris in his yard immediately following the storm, so the Farm Rescue volunteers took time on Monday to fill buckets and trash bags with the small pieces of wood, shingles and metal left behind. They also picked up a variety of items in the wheat field immediately surrounding the farmstead. Although that particular crop was damaged by hail, the area still needed to be cleared for Bauer to safely operate his equipment there.

Gross explained that Farm Rescue has three teams of volunteers currently operating in North Dakota, with the crew at Bauer's farm scheduled for work next in the Westhope and Upham areas. The organization assists farmers in North Dakota, South Dakota, western Minnesota and eastern Montana who experience a sudden hardship from illness, injury or natural disaster.

"This is our fifth year," Gross said, "and this is our 125th case so far."

Farm Rescue doesn't give money to farmers, but the volunteers provide one-time planting or harvesting services, depending on the situation, to help a farmer in need. The farmers themselves pay nothing, but Gross cited the support of several businesses in the region to fund the program, including RDO Equipment Company, SunPrairie Grain, SRT Communications, Ryan Chevrolet, Wal-Mart, Cenex, Capital RV, 1st International Bank & Trust, First Western Bank, Bremer Bank, Central Power, Verendrye Electric and Sign D'ZYN of Minot.

"We have a lot of good support from this area of the country," he said.

Monday's event at Bauer's farm included 10 Farm Rescue volunteers who planned to help with the harvesting operations and another 15 employees from the

various sponsors who volunteered to work on the debris cleanup. SunPrairie Grain cooked lunch for the crowd, including U.S. Senator Kent Conrad who stopped by to express his appreciation to Gross and the Farm Rescue volunteers for the organization's efforts across the state.

Senator Conrad also looked at the overcast sky and grinned. "I was hoping to help combine today!" he said.

Farmers volunteer for farmers

The Farm Rescue volunteers at Bauer's farm literally came from both sides of the country, with Andy Wittenburg of Florence, Oregon, in his first summer with the organization. "I'm here to get my farming fix," he said, smiling.

Wittenburg farmed for 10 years after graduating from high school. "I used to love farming and the most fun times were when we'd help a neighbor out," he said. He discovered the opportunity with the Farm Rescue on the Internet, so he signed on and spent time running the combine in Bauer's wheat field.

Richard Fox of Cabot, Pennsylvania, was on his first Farm Rescue volunteer trip, too. "I read about it in our local paper, of all things," he said. "I was in North Dakota once and I thought I'd like to get back here."

Fox was born and raised on a farm in Pennsylvania, which his son now operates. Fox is a retired truck driver who enjoys the vast size of the farms he sees in North Dakota. "In Pennsylvania, our farms are maybe 300 or 400 acres," he said, looking around at the open fields surrounding Bauer's farmstead.

Bill Weaver, a seasoned Farm Rescue volunteer from Knox, PA, traveled with Fox to North Dakota last weekend. "I've been out three springs for planting, but this is my first time to come for harvest," he said.

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HONKERS FOOTBALL



Holding the line . . . Jon Skjoldal (50) and Brandon Ganskop (64) stand ready to plug up any holes in the Honkers' defense as the Dunseith center snaps the football back to the quarterback. The Honkers beat the Dragons 36-6 at Dunseith on August 24. The Honkers dropped their game Saturday to Mott-Regent 6-48. See story on the games on page 2.

Photo by Turtle Mountain Star

Farm Rescue comes to Bauer farm



Spared by the storm . . . Harvesting equipment owned by Dennis Bauer had been moved to fields literally hours before an EF3 tornado obliterated his home and yard. Bauer used that equipment in a wheat field last week, with a second combine and crew sent by Farm Rescue to assist with harvesting operations.

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His nephew met Gross and learned about Farm Rescue, and Weaver was quickly convinced to offer his services. A retired farmer, Weaver had 400 acres with a couple hundred head of dairy cattle, with 100 of those to milk every day. "I had a barn blown away in a storm one time," he said, "and our farm association came in and rebuilt it. This is my cup of tea."

Like Fox, he enjoyed the large size of farms on the prairie. "We can't even turn equipment like this around at home!" he said.

Farm Rescue attracts plenty of North Dakota volunteers, too, with Gene Spichke and Warren Zakopyko of Kief sharing their expertise. "This is my fourth year," said Zakopyko. He actually signed up for the program when he and

Spichke attended a farm show in Minot one year. "I said, 'If you will, I will.' You get the feeling you can help, and we're appreciated most of the time."

"The good Lord put us on this earth to help ourselves and help other people," added Spichke. "Now that I'm retired, I like to help farmers. You see the hardships and you can do something to help them get over the hump for another year."

Bauer appreciated the willingness of these volunteers to spend time in his fields. "You're not in this alone," he said. "That's a good feeling. You don't know how long it will be before you can get back to normal."

The Farm Rescue volunteers plan to help Bauer finish the one wheat field and 750 acres of canola that were swathed more than

two weeks ago. Other harvest assistance has come from SunPrairie Grain in Bowbells. "They're trucking some of it for me," Bauer said, "and they're holding storage in the elevator for my wheat and canola. Some of that was already contracted."

Bauer will have more wheat and durum to harvest and store after the Farm Rescue combine leaves, but he said several neighbors have already offered to help. "A lot of people have contacted me," he said. "We'll figure out something when the time comes."

More information about Farm Rescue, as well as information about volunteering or donating to the organization, can be found online at www.farmrescue.org.



More clean-up efforts . . . (Left to right) Dennis Bauer, U.S. Senator Kent Conrad and Farm Rescue founder Bill Gross discuss volunteer efforts at Bauer's farmstead Monday. About two dozen volunteers were on hand to continue cleanup efforts started after the August 12th storm by Bauer's friends and neighbors. Large items were already sorted and piled, but some small debris remained scattered around the yard.