

# ***THE WEISER SIGNAL AMERICAN PRESENTS:*** **THE 2021-22 WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW**



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Weiser Senior Ivy Morris drives in a shot against Melba.



This year’s Lady Wolverines varsity basketball team consists of, from left, Ellie Eames, Kristy Bake, Emily Pope, Kendall Rynearson, Brady Reed, Tobie Noyer, Jasi Yraguen, Mattie Shirts, Macy Maloney, Ivy Morris and Elle Svedin. The varsity team is coached by two former WHS basketball players, head coach Laraine Harrison and Nikki Erickson. Dave Shirts will coach the junior varsity team and Taylor Roberts the freshman-sophomore team. The team has six returning players from the 2020-2021 season. Pictured below is Kendall Rynearson taking a jump shot at a recent game against Melba. *Photos by Zane Davis*

# Lady Wolverines set bar high for 2021-22 basketball season

by Zane Davis

Despite the uncharacteristically warm days and the green grass, winter is actually upon us and with winter weather and shorter days, comes winter sports at Weiser High School. While the boys were concluding their state football championship, the girls have already hit the hardwood for the 2021-22 basketball season. Returning for her third year to lead the Lady Wolverines is Weiser alum and basketball standout, Laraine Harrison. Harrison will be assisted this season at the varsity level by the former junior varsity coach, Nikki Erickson, also a Weiser alum and an impressive basketball player for Weiser High School. Dave Shirts will step into

the junior varsity coach position this year from the freshman-sophomore level. Program newcomer, Taylor Roberts, will take the lead for that squad. Roberts assisted at the varsity level last year and coached at Weiser Middle School, as well. Roberts brings post position experience to the program. “She is a great addition and does a good job working on the Lady Wolverines’ inside game,” Harrison said. “She has great insight and brings a lot of enthusiasm.” The Lady Wolverines have a very experienced team this season, with only one sophomore on the squad. “We have the bar set high this year,” Harrison said. “We want to be SRV Champions and head to the

3A State Tournament.” Returning at the varsity level are seniors, Ivy Morris and Elle Svedin, and juniors, Jasi Yraguen, Mattie Shirts, Tobie Noyer, and Macy Maloney. New to the varsity level, but ready for the challenge, are seniors Emily Pope, Kristy Bake, and Ellie Eames; junior, Brady Reed; and sophomore, Kendall Rynearson. Harrison is excited for her third year, as it’s no longer a matter of rebuilding or learning. “The girls know the system, so we can spend more time fine tuning things, versus learning a new offense and defense,” she said. Harrison expects a lot of her team and states, “Our girls work very hard and have a winning attitude. They are tough and gritty

and have the ability to play with anyone when we are in the zone. However, after the first three games, we know one of the things we will need to really work on is handling ball pressure and making good decisions even when we get tired. We have a strong inside game and I feel we can do a lot of damage when we get our inside/outside going.” Harrison concluded, “I know the girls are very excited, including our coaching staff, because we have a great group of kids to be working with. We have seen some good glimpses of how good we can be, and we are working on putting four solid quarters together. We definitely should be competing for top spot in our league and expect nothing less.”



2021-22 Weiser girls' basketball roster		
No.	Name	Year
2	Elle Svedin	12
3	Brady Reed	11
4	Emily Pope	12
5	Jasi Yraguen	11
12	Ivy Morris	12
21	Macy Maloney	11
30	Tobie Noyer	11
33	Kendall Rynearson	10
35	Kristy Bake	12
45	Mattie Shirts	11
50	Ellie Eames	12
Coach: Laraine Harrison		
Volunteer: Nikki Erickson		

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

Date	Meet	Site	Time	Jan. 11	*Payette	H	4:30
Dec. 2	Vale	H	4:30	Jan. 14	*McCall	A	4:30
Dec. 4	Ridgevue	A	11:00	Jan. 20	*Homedale	A	4:30
Dec. 9	Nampa Christian (JV/V)	H	4:30	Jan. 22	*Parma	H	12:00
Dec. 10	Vale	A	4:00	Jan. 25	*Fruitland	A	4:30
Dec. 14	*McCall	H	4:30	Jan. 28	*Payette	A	4:30
Dec. 17	Columbia	H	4:30	Jan. 31, Feb. 2 Sub Varsity Dist. (Top 4)			TBA TBA
Dec. 28-30	Parma Tourney	A	TBA	Feb. 3, 5, 8, 10 District			TBA TBA
Dec. 28-30	Capital Tourney (F-S/JV)	A	TBA	Feb. 12 State Play-in Grangeville			TBA
Jan. 4	*Homedale	H	4:30	Feb. 17-19 State at Middleton			TBA
Jan. 6	*Parma	A	4:30	*SRV Conference Matches			
Jan. 8	*Fruitland	H	12:00	Frosh - 4:30; JV-20 Min. After Frosh; Varsity 20 Min. After JV			



The Weiser High School boys' basketball team started their season on Dec. 1 against Melba. Team members pictured back row from left are Willy Shirts, Levi Estes, Braden Phillips, Cameron Thien, Evan Haggerty, Brett Spencer and Brayden Walker. Front, Michael Youngberg, Emmett Walker, Jack Shirts, Brock Spencer, Carter Jensen and Malakye Scott. Coach Chris Schultz, last year's freshman coach, is the new head basketball coach. Last year's team qualified for the 3A State play-in game and this year they are looking to go the next step and make it to the 3A State tournament. Photo by Michelle Estes

# Weiser boys look to improve in 2021-22

## With 19 years coaching experience Schultz takes helm after Adolfson departure

**by Philip A. Janquart**

The Weiser boys' basketball team qualified for a 3A State play-in game in 2021, the Wolverines are looking to take the next step in 2021-22, according to first year varsity head coach Chris Schultz.

Schultz got his start as an assistant at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario and has served as the Weiser freshman boys head coach for the last two years. He coached the JV girls basketball team for six years prior to that.

He said that although the varsity has lost some key players from last season, there are experienced and talented athletes returning.

Brett Spencer, Willy Shirts, and Evan Haggerty are three of those players. The athletes, like most of

their teammates, are just coming off a 3A Idaho State Championship football season and have little time to make the transition to the basketball court.

Schultz said they are the kind of guys, however, that don't necessarily need a lot of time and will be ready for the Wolverines' season opener on Dec. 1, at home against Melba.

All the players on the roster will be used in multiple capacities, especially Spencer, who was a First-Team All-Conference pick last season.

"Brett is going to play a little bit of everything," Schultz said. "In the past, he's played a lot of guard, but we are going to use him everywhere."

Schultz said Shirts and Haggerty will both spend

time at wing and post.

He added that there is good talent coming up from the ranks to fill the voids left by last year's graduates.

"We lost Eli Ruiz, Ray Calley, and Sam Kerner, and there was also Tyler Pope," Schultz said. "With that said, we have a great group of young guys coming up."

Jack Shirts, Brock Spencer, and Carter Jensen all played on Weiser's freshman team last year and are expected to make good contributions to the varsity team this season. The freshmen went undefeated and won the district championship in 2021. Schultz hopes that experience will carry forward as sophomores.

"I'm looking for them

to get big minutes and actually challenge some of those returners for starting spots," Schultz said. "We have a fourth one, Braden Phillips (sophomore), who will split time on both the JV and varsity to start. If he develops the way I think he can, he will really add to the mix. He's a big man and we are working on his speed and footwork, but by the end of the season, I see him playing varsity full-time."

Offensively, Schultz says his players won't get too comfortable playing just one position.

"If you've noticed, we aren't very tall, but we are quick," he said. "We've got speed and quickness, so on offense, we are going to spread the floor out, pass and drive, and run a

lot of motion-type stuff, so they've got to be able to know, basically, all of the positions.

"On defense, we're going to press. We are going to get after them with a lot of pressure, and hopefully we get a lot of deflections, a lot of steals that we can turn into offense. I also think we have shooters."

Schultz, now in his 19th year as a coach, takes over the helm for former head coach Brad Adolfson who was named head coach at 4A Nampa High School in May.

While at Weiser, Adolfson recorded a 114-80 record, leading his teams to two conference championships (2016, 2017) and two district championships (2015, 2017).

"We were right there

knocking at the door," Schultz said of last year's 74-69 state play-in loss to Bonners Ferry. "The goal this year, the expectation, is take that next step and make the state tournament."

McCall-Donnelly is the conference favorite again this season, having lost 58-51 to Marsh Valley in the 2021 3A Idaho State Championship.

"They return everybody but one player," said Schultz, providing a brief conference run down. "Homedale will be tough this year. They have a couple of young kids coming in that are going to be good. Fruitland is always tough, and Payette is getting better. Really, we have a tough league from top to bottom."

2021-22 Weiser boys' basketball roster	
Name	Year
Brett Spencer	12
Willy Shirts	12
Evan Haggerty	12
Braden Walker	11
Malakye Scott	11
Michael Youngberg	11
Levi Estes	11
Brock Spencer	10
Jack Shirts	10
Carter Jensen	10
Emmett Walker	12
Braden Phillips	10
Cameron Thien	12

## BOYS BASKETBALL

Date	Meet	Site	Time	Feb. 1	*Homedale	H	4:30
Dec. 9	Melba	A	4:30	Feb. 4	*Parma	A	4:30
Dec. 10	Vale	H	4:30	Feb. 9	*Fruitland	A	4:30
Dec. 16	Ridgevue	A	4:30	Feb. 11	*Payette	A	4:30
Dec. 21	Nampa	H	4:30	Feb. 14, 16	Sub Varsity District		
Dec. 28-30	Parma Tourney	A	TBA		(Top 4)	TBA	TBA
Jan. 7	Ontario	H	4:30	Feb. 15, 19, 22, 24	District	TBA	TBA
Jan. 11	Vale	A	4:00	Feb. 26	State Play-in		
Jan. 13	*McCall	H	4:30		at Grangeville	TBA	
Jan. 15	*Homedale	A	12:00	March 3-5	State at Meridian	TBA	
Jan. 18	*Parma	H	4:30		*SRV Conference Games		
Jan. 21	*Fruitland	H	4:30		Times: Freshman - 4:30; JV-20 Min. After		
Jan. 25	*McCall	A	4:30		Frosh Game; Varsity 20 Min. After JV Game.		
Jan. 27	*Payette	H	4:30		No Earlier Than 7:30.		



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# Weiser Signal American's 2021-22 Wolverine Winter SPORTS SCHEDULE



**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Date	Meet	Site	Time
Dec. 2	Vale	H	4:30
Dec. 4	Ridgevue	A	11:00
Dec. 9	Nampa Christian (JV/V)	H	4:30
Dec. 10	Vale	A	4:00
Dec. 14	*McCall	H	4:30
Dec. 17	Columbia	H	4:30
Dec. 28-30	Parma Tourney	A	TBA
Dec. 28-30	Capital Tourney (F-S/JV)	A	TBA
Jan. 4	*Homedale	H	4:30
Jan. 6	*Parma	A	4:30
Jan. 8	*Fruitland	H	12:00
Jan. 11	*Payette	H	4:30
Jan. 14	*McCall	A	4:30
Jan. 20	*Homedale	A	4:30
Jan. 22	*Parma	H	12:00
Jan. 25	*Fruitland	A	4:30
Jan. 28	*Payette	A	4:30
Jan. 31, Feb. 2	Sub Varsity District (Top 4)	TBA	TBA
Feb. 3, 5, 8, 10	District	TBA	TBA
Feb. 12	State Play-in at Grangeville	TBA	TBA
Feb. 17-19	State at Middleton	TBA	TBA
*SRV Conference Matches			
Frosh - 4:30; JV-20 Min. After Frosh; Varsity 20 Min. After JV			



**BOYS BASKETBALL**

Date	Meet	Site	Time
Dec. 7	Columbia	H	4:30
Dec. 9	Melba	A	4:30
Dec. 10	Vale	H	4:30
Dec. 16	Ridgevue	A	4:30
Dec. 21	Nampa	H	4:30
Dec. 28-30	Parma Tourney	A	TBA
Jan. 7	Ontario	H	4:30
Jan. 11	Vale	A	4:00
Jan. 13	*McCall	H	4:30
Jan. 15	*Homedale	A	12:00
Jan. 18	*Parma	H	4:30
Jan. 21	*Fruitland	H	4:30
Jan. 25	*McCall	A	4:30
Jan. 27	*Payette	H	4:30
Feb. 1	*Homedale	H	4:30
Feb. 4	*Parma	A	4:30
Feb. 9	*Fruitland	A	4:30
Feb. 11	*Payette	A	4:30
Feb. 14, 16	Sub Varsity District (Top 4)	TBA	TBA
Feb. 15, 19, 22, 24	District	TBA	TBA
Feb. 26	State Play-in at Grangeville	TBA	TBA
March 3-5	State at Meridian	TBA	TBA
*SRV Conference Games			
Times: Freshman - 4:30; JV-20 Min. After Frosh Game; Varsity 20 Min. After JV Game. No Earlier Than 7:30.			




**WRESTLING**

Date	Meet	Time
Dec. 10-11	Muilenberg Invite at LaGrande (Boys)	3:00
Dec. 10-11	Calhoun Classic at Nyssa (Girls)	3:00
Dec. 14	Nyssa/Vale at Weiser	5:30
Dec. 17-18	John Rysdam Invite at Elgin	3:00
Jan. 6	Timberlake/Lewiston at Weiser	5:00
Jan. 7-8	Buhl Invite at Buhl	3:00
Jan. 12	Parma at Parma	5:30
Jan. 14-15	Padilla Invite at Parma	3:00
Jan. 19	Fruitland at Fruitland	5:30
Jan. 21-22	TBA	TBA
Jan. 26	McCall at McCall	5:30
Jan. 29	R.D. Brown Invite at New Plymouth	9:00
Feb. 2	Homedale/Baker at Weiser	5:30
Feb. 4-5	Weiser Invite at Weiser	3:00
Feb. 9	Payette at Weiser	5:30
Feb. 19	District Tourney at McCall	TBA
Feb. 25-26	State Tourney at Pocatello	TBA
Weigh-ins will be 1 hour before start time for duals and 2 hours before tournament start times.		



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The Tri-Valley girls' varsity basketball team is back on the court and they are working hard to defend their state championship from the 2020-2021 season. Team members, front row from left are: Kassie Lattimer, Aleigha Jones, Lexi Gay, Tyler Gressley, Stella Warren, Becca Chandler. Top, from left, Asst. Kristin Nolte (with Skylar Nolte), Mackenzie Sprague, Samantha Water, Hunter Hastie, Hadley Atnip, Maren Hansen, Abby Atnip, Sophia Waters, Emma McKee-Barton, and Coach Jeff Springer. Not pictured: Assistants Dennis Holmes and Mike Waggoner, and Manon Tyler and Cloe Russell.

# Tri-Valley girls reloading in defense of state championship

*Springer expects Tri-Valley Titans to be competitive in 2021-22*

by Philip A. Janquart

The Tri-Valley girls' varsity basketball team has been in the state championship mix for the last two years. In 2019-20, the Titans went 23-3 overall and 11-0

in league play, losing 55-48 to Carey in a 1A state championship semi-final game that left them fighting Salmon River over third place. They beat the Savages 45-43 to end the season third. Carey ultimately fell to Rockland 45-30 in the state championship. In 2020-21, Tri-Valley amassed another impressive season, going 21-3 overall and 10-0 in league, according to MaxPreps.com. This

time, they captured the 1A Div. II Idaho State Championship, beating Kendrick (20-6) 54-48. So, what will become of 2021-22? Despite losing four senior starters, third-year coach Jeff Springer told the *Weiser Signal American* that he believes his team will nonetheless be competitive. That was over two weeks ago, before he had finalized his varsity roster.

Since that time, Tri-Valley has beaten Greenleaf Friends Academy (1-3) by a score of 34-24 on Nov. 16 and Compass Honors (0-3) 78-22 on Nov. 18. The Titans fell 52-37 to 2A New Plymouth (1-2) on Nov. 19 in the team's first loss of the season. "They are two divisions higher than us, but I think we could have beat them," Springer said of New Plymouth.

But it's early in the year and Springer is working on getting his new lineup working together. Once the team's combination of experience and youth begin to gel, the Titans could very well see success. The bad news: Springer loses five seniors from last season, including First-Team All-State picks Josey Jones and Emma Hollon. The good news: the Titans return four players with varsity experience. They are juniors Hadley Atnip, Maren Hansen, and Manon Tyler, and senior Abigale Atnip.

appears on the varsity roster. "There are also a couple of sophomores I let suit up as freshmen when we went to state last year," Springer said. "They may be playing both JV and varsity." Those sophomores are Tyler Gressley and Becca Chandler. "All these girls have great work ethic, and they are excited to be here," Springer said. "I have high expectations for them. I truly believe we are going to be competitive." Springer said that Council appears to be the league favorite, at least for the moment. The Lumberjacks have a new coach, former Salmon River head coach Paula Tucker. "She has had a huge amount of success," Springer said. "She was at Salmon River for a number of years and Garden Valley before that. She knows her stuff and she's got a lot of talent there." League opponents include Council, Cascade, Garden Valley, Horseshoe Bend, Meadows Valley, Riverstone, Salmon River, and Tri-Valley.

2021-22 Tri-Valley girls' basketball roster		
Varsity		
No.	Name	Year
1	Hadley Atnip	11
5	Emma McKee-Barton	9
10	Tyler Gressley	10
11	Becca Chandler	10
12	Cloe Russell	9
13	Abigale Atnip	12
14	Stella Warren	9
15	Kassi Lattimer	12
21	Maren Hansen	11
22	Manon Tyler	11
23	Hunter Hastie	9

GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE			
Date	Meet	Site	Time
Dec. 10-11	Tourney at Powder, Ore.	A	11:30PT
Dec. 14	New Plymouth in Midvale	H	TBD
Dec. 17	Salmon River in Cambridge	H	4:30
Dec. 18	Council in Cambridge	H	3:00
Dec. 20	Rimrock	A	5:00
Jan. 4	Greenleaf	A	6:00
Jan. 8	Idaho City at TVCC	A	TBD
Jan. 13	Garden Valley	A	4:30
Jan. 14	Cascade in Cambridge	H	3:00
Jan. 18	Council	A	4:30
Jan. 22	Salmon River	A	4:30
Jan. 25	Garden Valley in Midvale	H	4:30
Jan. 28	Cascade	A	4:30
Jan. 29	Girls JV Districts	TBA	TBA
Feb. 1	District	TBA	TBA
Feb. 17-19	State	TBA	TBA

# Titan wrestling team ready to hit mat

by Philip A. Janquart

The Titan wrestling team, comprised of athletes from Midvale and Cambridge, kicked off the 2021-22 season at an east-west dual in Wendell on Saturday, Dec. 4, an approximate 200-mile, three-hour drive east. Established just last year, the Titan high school wrestling program is excited about its prospects moving forward, especially considering that two athletes from a year ago qualified for state in its fledgling season, an optimistic sign of better things to come. Russell Noah, then a 106-pounder, and Gilbert Witlatch, who wrestled in the 160-pound class and just a sophomore at the time, were both crowned district champions. Unfortunately, the Titans lost Witlatch who moved out of the area with his family. "That was a big loss, but we have some big goals in front of us," said Titan coach Nathan

Noah. "It's going to be fun and next year we will have a lot of experience. We are growing." The wrestling program in Midvale and Cambridge began as a club sport and evolved into a school district-sanctioned junior high program. When Russell became a freshman in high school, his father Nathan and his two fellow coaches, Mark Moura and Jake Waggoner, knew it was time to ramp things up. It's just how the trio – there is no "head coach" per se – envisioned things evolving. "All three of us, and all of the kids involved, just kind of came up through the club program originally and then on to the junior high program. We've been working on this for about a decade," Noah said. "It was time to start the high school program last year because we had one kid, my son, who was ready to compete at the next level. He was going to be a freshman in high school, so we knew we had

to get that program started because there are other kids coming up who are going to need to take that next step, too." As it stands, the Titan wrestling team has one senior, Adam Miller, a 138-pounder. The rest of the team of 10 athletes is comprised of juniors and sophomores. Many of them are in their second year as varsity wrestlers. "Most of our kids with experience are coming up through the junior varsity right now," Noah said. "They have a bunch of kids that have wrestled for a long time. Next year, we'll have at least six eighth graders coming in, freshmen who have been wrestling since they've been five- or six-years-old." Noah said starting a varsity wrestling program during the pandemic was challenging, but it didn't hold back their efforts and kids are taking advantage of the opportunity. Right now, there are 16 kids



Gage Warren works on a wrestling move against teammate Gabe Sutton during a recent practice session in Cambridge. Photo by Philip A. Janquart

on the junior varsity in a school district that has just over 30 junior high school students, all of them vying to become varsity

high school grapplers. "We had eight kids last year and took two kids to state and I think we can improve from a

# Titans boys to rebuild in 2021-22

by Philip A. Janquart

It's hard to believe, but fall is over, and winter is here.

Area schools are making the transition from the gridiron to the basketball court, including athletes participating in the Tri-Valley boys' basketball program, which is expected to undergo a rebuilding season in 2021-22.

In Midvale and Cambridge, the Tri-Valley boys' combined basketball program began holding practices a few weeks ago under the direction of new coach Kylee Morris.

Morris, who also serves as the Midvale School District Superintendent, takes over as head coach this year, her first as boys varsity head coach.

"I'm originally from Midvale," she said. "I graduated here and then returned to the area in 2007."

Morris is a long-time basketball player and coach, having played for Walla Walla Community College. She received her bachelor's degree at Boise State University, her master's from Governors University, and her education degree from BSU.

She has coached basketball for Tri-Valley for a number of years, including the girls' junior varsity from 2007 to 2009 and the girls' varsity from 2010 to 2014.

She also spent time as the boys' junior high coach and the girls' junior high coach and has also coached a few recreation league teams.

The Tri-Valley Titans

from page 6

sports program is a cooperative between Midvale High School and Cambridge High School. Titan sports include football, volleyball, girls' and boys' basketball, wrestling and track. The Titans are a member of the Long Pin League and compete in Idaho's 1A Div. II.

Boys' basketball conference teams include Cascade, Council, Garden Valley, Horseshoe Bend, Meadows Valley, Rimrock, Salmon River, and the Titans.

Garden Valley took home the 1A Div. II Idaho State Championship last year, followed by Dietrich as the runner up and Rockland in third place.

Morris said her team is undergoing a rebuilding year and hopes to take steps toward strengthening the program in the seasons to come.

"We don't have tryouts and have a very small number of kids out for basketball this year," she said. "Nearly half of the players that are out, are freshmen. Our age and inexperience would categorize us as a JV team, but we likely will not have the numbers to do both JV and varsity games in the same night."

The Titans' only returning starter is sophomore Zane Nichols who started at quarterback for the Titans varsity football team last fall. At 6-3 and approximately 175 pounds, he will be a key player on a team that does not have an abundance of height.

"This year, there will be



The Titan boys' basketball program is struggling with numbers this season. New head coach Kylee Morris said 2021-22 will be a rebuilding year and plans to get the program back to where it once was. Above, an unidentified player drives toward the basket during a recent practice, Morris employing the help of young volunteers in order to have a full practice. Photo by Philip A. Janquart

2021-22 Tri-Valley boys' basketball roster Varsity		
No.	Name	Year
1	Zane Nichols	10
2	Trenton Hicks	11
3	Bridger Strausser	9
4	Shaun Chrzanowski	11
5	Ricky VanMeer	10
11	Charlie Gay	12
12	Alex Robbins	9
13	Logan Whitener	10
14	Keith Farrens	9
33	Haven Harley	9
34	Claytin Harper	10
40	Danner Morris	9

expectations for Zane, none more than what he puts on himself," Morris said.

The only senior is Char-

lie Gay who will also play a critical role alongside Trenton Hicks. Gay, a receiver, and Hicks also played for

BOYS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE			
Date	Meet	Site	Time
Dec. 10-11	Tourney at Powder, Ore.	A	11:30PT
Dec. 16	Horseshoe Bend	A	6:00
Dec. 17	Salmon River in Cambridge	H	4:30
Dec. 18	Council in Cambridge	H	3:00
Jan. 4	Greenleaf	A	6:00
Jan. 8	Idaho City at TVCC	A	TBD
Jan. 11	New Meadows	A	6:00
Jan. 13	Garden Valley	A	4:30
Jan. 14	Cascade in Cambridge	H	3:00
Jan. 18	Council	A	4:30
Jan. 21	Horseshoe Bend in Midvale	H	4:30
Jan. 22	Salmon River	A	4:30
Jan. 25	Garden Valley in Midvale	H	4:30
Jan. 28	Cascade	A	4:30
Feb. 8	New Meadows in Cambridge	H	6:00
Feb. 17, 19, 25, 27	Boys Districts	TBA	TBA
March 3-5	Boys State	TBA	TBA

the Titan football team.

"Freshman Haven Harley will be dropped right into varsity action, as well," Morris added. "Our goal

for the season is to begin to rebuild the program. We have a lot of learning to accomplish, growth to be made and hard work to do."

## Tri-Valley Titans wrestling program optimistic in only second varsity season

year ago," Noah said.

At state, Russell took fifth place while Witlatch went 2-2 and came within one match of reaching the medal round.

Noah noted that he does not expect his athletes to "suck weight" in order to qualify for a specific weight class.

"Especially for those

kids who haven't wrestled a long time, I want them to have a good experience and cutting weight is not going to help them compete or improve their strength," he said. "That kind of stuff hurt the sport and drove kids away. I do believe the girls are going to save the sport. Girl wrestling is

unbelievably competitive.

Our junior high team just won the Nyssa duals last week, and it's pretty exciting. We are split evenly on that junior high team because we have seven girls and seven boys. It's pretty unique to have a co-ed combat sport in junior high. Two of us coaches have daughters that have wrestled, girls who have been watching their older brothers wrestle since they were able to get on the mat. All those kids have competed all over the northwest."

2021-22 Titan Wrestling Schedule and Roster			
Dec. 10-11	Calhoun Classic	3:00	
	at Nyssa	10:00	
Dec. 15	Tri-Valley at Midvale	6:00	
Dec. 18	Glenns Ferry		
	Tourney	10:00	
Jan. 12	Marsing	6:00	
Jan. 14-15	Magic Valley	3:00	
	Classic at Wendell	9:30	
Jan. 19	Melba	6:00	
Jan. 29	R.D. Brown Memorial		
	at New Plymouth	9:00	
Jan. 28-29	Clearwater Duals		
	at Kooskia	TBD	
Feb. 12	Marsing Tourney	10:30	
Feb. 19	Districts at Marsing	11:00	
Feb. 25-26	State at Pocatello	TBD	

Name	Class	Year
Jace Mink	106	9
Russell Noah	120	10
Dallon Scott	132	11
Toby Walker	138	9
Adam Miller	138	12
Gabe Sutton	145	10
Gage Warren	152	10
Cash Pearson	170	9
JC Henry	TBD	11
Blake Damon	TBD	11

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Rylee Willet, left, works with teammate Jace Buescher during a recent practice session. The Wolverines return 51 wrestlers for the 2021-22 season and have added a girls' team for the first time in the school's history, giving the girls an opportunity to compete in the combat sport. *Photo by Katie von Brethorst*

## Wrestling program returns 51 grapplers, adds girls' team

*by Katie von Brethorst*

Weiser wrestling is back for the 2021-2022 season. The Wolverines are returning 51 wrestlers including ten seniors and a very talented freshman class.

Head coach Drew Dickerson returns at the helm along with Chad Gibson, Chris Willet, Kristian Claudio, Dustin Kistenmacher, Eric Sanchez, and Tara Wilkins.

Not only does Weiser have a great returning group of young men, there is a women's team that has been added this year.

Weiser has always had a strong wrestling program with many wrestlers and with the addition of a women's bracket this year, young ladies will have the opportunity to compete against each other in the sport.

Weiser is hopeful to be competitive in the hunt for a state championship especially considering the talented wrestlers making a return.

"With our seasoned returners and this talented group of freshmen we should be pretty tough to beat this year," Dickerson stated.

The Wolverines have been in the wrestling room for a couple of weeks now working on fundamental moves and strategy, however with the recent success of the football team, some of the returning talent has not been able to get into wrestling shape until last week. All of the other SRV teams have had their returning wrestlers in the wrestling room already, so Weiser's athletes will have to change focus quickly, however if any group of athletes can do this it is definitely these guys.

Weiser will face the normal SRV competition and this year will also be able to compete in some of the tournaments from previous years in Oregon whereas last year and the year before those were restricted due to COVID.

The first match of the year will be in La-Grande, Ore. on Dec. 10, 2021. This year should be an exciting one, so come on out and support your Weiser Wolverine wrestling team.

*See wrestling schedule on Pages 4-5.*



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