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# GUTHRIE COUNTY SPORTS GUIDE

**WINTER 2024-2025**





# CHARGER BOYS BASKETBALL IS FULL OF SENIOR TALENT HEADING INTO NEW SEASON



PHOTO BY RICH WILKINS

**ACGC BOYS BASKETBALL ROSTER:** Back row: Ryan Martens, Tommy Skram, Colt Douglas, Joe Crawford, Bryan Beer, Jonny Kading, Hudson Gilland, Preston Kent, Parker King, Blaize Dorsey and Stetson Ellis. Front row: Head Coach Lance Kading, Ben Franzeen, Jathan South, Mason Wahl, Payton Policky, Noah Kading and Assistant Coach Wes Policky.

## Lance Kading's ACGC boys basketball team returns plenty of talent from a team that nearly made the state tournament.

BY CVOTE WILLIAMS

The ACGC boys basketball 2023-2024 season ended at the hands of Lynnville-Sully, which, at that point, had only lost one game

all season, in the Class 1A-7 semi-final. ACGC finished the season 14-9, continuing the program's trend of better than .500 seasons. Head Coach Lance Kading says continuing to build on that success, and learning how to win those do-or-die games, will be crucial going forward.

"We've had some success the last handful of years. It seemed like, for a while there, we struggled to get out of the first or second round, and then a couple of years ago, we

made it to the sub-state final, and then last year to the district final," Kading said. "I think the guys are learning how to compete in the postseason environment where it's win or go home. It's something where you can't shortcut the process. You just have to take your lumps and learn how to win those games."

ACGC is losing two starters from a year ago in Lance Bunde, who led the team in steals and was second in points per game, and Anthony Solorzano, who was fifth on the team in

points per game.

"It seems like every year you lose one or two of your best guys to graduation. You just hope some other guys can pick up the slack, and some younger guys can step up, too," Kading said.

ACGC is returning three starters who will be critical to the team's success in 2024-2025. Jathan South, Noah Kading and Payton Policky are back for their senior seasons. Rounding out the senior class is center Mason Wahl,

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who saw limited playing time last year, and Ben Franzeen.

As a junior, South led ACGC in scoring with 15.4 points per game to go along with his 2.7 assists and 4 rebounds. South was efficient with his scoring, shooting 45.1% from the field.

Noah Kading also cracked double-digit scoring last year, averaging 12 points per game, third-best on the team. He led the team in assists with 4.6, while only turning the ball over 1.2 times per game, giving him a 3.79 assist-to-turnover ratio. His 5 rebounds per game were second-best on the roster.

Payton Policky was a double-double waiting to happen last season. During his junior season, he averaged 10.5 points per game, fourth-best on the team, and 9.6 rebounds, far and away the highest on the team and third-highest in the West Central Activities Conference.

"Having those three back is huge. We've got our leading scorer, our leading rebounder and our leader in assists all coming back as seniors. That's big. Having guys with that much experience and that much time playing together, that gives us a very, very solid core,"

Kading said.

Mason Wahl, standing at 6'7", will give the team a presence in the paint.

"He hasn't played a lot of varsity up to this point, but he'll be a big piece for us this year. He's really come along and is just a real big body that gives us some size," Kading said.

The team has three juniors this season, all guards: Tommy Skram, Joe Crawford and Blaize Dorsey. Skram and Dorsey saw limited minutes, while Crawford had the most impact. As a sophomore, he averaged 3.3 points per game. Kading says Skram and Dorsey are both good ballhandlers with high basketball IQs. Expect those three to see the floor more this season.

Two sophomores round out ACGC's roster: Jonny Kading and Preston Kent. Both were on the varsity roster last year but did not see the floor often. With just a 10-man roster, they could easily be called upon this year.

"We've got a lot of size in the starting lineup and not a lot of size coming off the bench. So, we'll just see where those guys shake out as far as finishing out our rotation. But our top six are pretty solid. And I think our top seven, eight and nine, are pretty solid, too,"

## ACGC 2024-2025 BOYS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

- Dec. 3 at West Central Valley at 7:15 p.m.
- Dec. 6 vs. Woodward-Granger at 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 10 at Van Meter at 7:15 p.m.
- Dec. 13 vs. Ogden at 7:15 p.m.
- Dec. 16 vs. AHSTW at 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 20 vs. Panorama at 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 7 vs. Des Moines Christian at 7:45 p.m.
- Jan. 10 vs. Madrid at 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 11 vs. Exira-EHK at 4:30 p.m.
- Jan. 14 vs. Woodward-Granger at 7:45 p.m. at Wells Fargo Arena
- Jan. 17 at Earlham at 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 20 at CAM at 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 21 at Ogden at 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 24 at Panorama at 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 27 at Clarinda at 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 30 vs. Interstate 35 at 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 4 vs. West Central Valley at 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 6 vs. Coon Rapids-Bayard at 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 7 at Pleasantville at 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 11 at Madrid at 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 13 vs. Underwood at 7:30 p.m.

Kading said.

Kading is brimming with confidence heading into this season, and it appears that confidence is justified. With a lot of returning talent, size and speed, ACGC could make a deep run this year, he says.

"If we can play to our potential, I don't think there's any reason we won't be right in the thick of competing for a conference championship. And I would think we should be at least a top-10 team and be competing for a trip to the state tournament," Kading said.

Playing in the competitive WCAC makes those ambitions difficult, but Kading believes the Chargers are up to the task.

"It's never easy with our conference, and we don't lighten up our non-conference schedule, either. We try to keep that competitive so it keeps us sharp. Rather than try to worry about what our record is going to be, we want to just play good teams and be prepared come post-season time. I'd say this group has as much, or more, potential as any group we've had so far, so I'm excited for the season," Kading said. ■

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# BEARDSLEY BRINGS EXPERIENCE TO A CONSISTENT PROGRAM

PHOTO BY BETTY COOPER



**PANORAMA BOYS BASKETBALL ROSTER:** Back row: Ike Greenlee, Reilan Boecker, Eli Hammerstrom, Noah Poldberg, AJ Draper, Reed Draper, Jaxson Stauffer and Brayden Galvan. Front row: Weston Boecker, Cruz Crandall, Cruz Stanley, Brayden Prescott, Wilson Clark, Braden Bahrenfuss, Hunter Kline and Brody Steenblock.

## New first-year head coach Josh Beardsley brings college-level experience to a stable WCAC team.

BY CYOTE WILLIAMS

Panorama boys basketball has experienced regular-season success over the

past decade. Since 2013-2014, the Panthers have finished with a record above .500 eight times, including last season's 13-9 record. Panorama finished fifth in the West Central Activities Conference with an 8-7 record. Their season ended in a close matchup in the Class 1A-8 first-round play-off against Audubon, 53-51.

Going into 2024-2025, Panorama will be without its two highest scorers from a year

ago: Braylon Dawes at 16.4 points per game and Maddox Hammerstrom at 12.6 points per game. The senior duo were also first and second in assists per game and second and third in rebounds per game. Replacing the two stars will be difficult, along with the departure of Trey Boettcher, the team's third-leading scorer as a freshman. Those are big holes to fill.

As a matter of fact, Head Coach Josh

Beardsley had to momentarily delay this interview.

"I had a sophomore stop in, and I'm trying to convince him to go out for basketball," Beardsley said.

Beardsley, a Panorama alum, will be taking over the program for the first year following the departure of Nick Peasley. Beardsley is bringing a ton of experience with him into the boys basketball program.

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Before taking the gig, he was the top assistant at Truman State University, an NCAA DII powerhouse. He understands the task ahead is a challenging one.

"I know there are a lot of seniors that graduated that were very successful throughout their career. We have a lot of underclassmen that are looking forward to stepping up into bigger roles," Beardsley said.

Four seniors are on Panorama's roster going into this season: Reilan Boecker, who is new to the team this season, AJ Draper, Eli Hammerstrom and Alexander Hammerstrom.

Draper is likely to be the most impactful player in this senior class. He was Panorama's fourth-leading scorer last year, averaging 9.2 points per game. His 6.8 rebounds per game led the team. He also averaged 1.1 steals per game and shot 67.2% from the field, third-highest in all of 1A.

The Hammerstrom duo had minimal impact in their junior seasons with Eli averaging 1.4 points per game and Alexander averaging 0.3. Expect them to take on new roles this season.

One junior is on the roster: Brayden Galvan. Last season, Galvan averaged 1.9 points, 1.3 rebounds and 0.8 assists.

Sophomores on this year's roster include Cruz Crandall, Reed Draper, Brayden Prescott and Jaxson Stauffer.

Of those four, Stauffer contributed the most last season. As a freshman, he averaged 4 points per game, 1.4 rebounds and 0.5 steals.

Crandall scored 24 total points while collecting 9 rebounds and 3 steals in his limited action.

Reed Draper, in his short amount of playing time, scored 9 total points, had 3 steals, 1 assist and 1 rebound. With the number of major departures, these sophomores will have to take on expanded roles.

A crowd of freshmen round out the Panther roster. Brayden Bahrenfuss, Westen Boecker, Wilson Clark, Hunter Kline, Cruz Stanley and Brody Steenblock will all don the Panorama blue this season.

What kind of expectations does the first-year head coach have with such a young roster?

"Just, each and every day, improving,

## PANORAMA 2024-2025 BOYS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

- Dec. 3 vs. Woodward-Granger at 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 5 vs. IKM-Manning at 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 6 vs. Madrid at 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 9 vs. Greene County at 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 10 at Earlham at 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 13 vs. West Central Valley at 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 17 at Interstate 35 at 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 20 at ACGC at 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 3 vs. Pleasantville at 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 10 vs. Ogden at 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 16 vs. Nodaway Valley at 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 17 at Van Meter at 7:15 p.m.
- Jan. 20 vs. Ankeny Christian at 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 21 at West Central Valley at 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 24 vs. ACGC at 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 28 at Madrid at 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 30 vs. Exira-EHK at 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 31 vs. Woodward Academy at 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 4 at Woodward-Granger at 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 7 at Des Moines Christian at 7:45 p.m.
- Feb. 11 at Ogden at 7:30 p.m.

growing and reaching our full potential. I haven't really had everyone all together yet, because summers are hit or miss. Especially as a new guy starting in July, you don't necessarily get everyone there. But, our expectation, obviously, is to be as successful as we possibly can," Beardsley said. "I don't know what that says, whether that's the first round of districts or the state tournament."

Beardsley says he plans to have a team that will be disciplined on the defensive end, which will lead to points in transition.

"I'm hoping we can play pretty fast and get up and down the court," Beardsley said.

With a year of uncertainties ahead under a new coach and young players needing to step into expanded roles, the possibilities are endless for how the year could go. But, that doesn't scare Beardsley.

"I'm super-excited to come back and coach my alma mater, and, hopefully, we can have a very successful season and get to do special things. That's what I'm hoping for," Beardsley said. ■

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## ACGC WILL BE 'RELENTLESS' IN AIMING TO EXCEED LAST SEASON'S SUCCESS



PHOTO BY RICH WILKINS

**ACGC GIRLS BASKETBALL ROSTER:** Back row: Head Coach Bradley Baudler, Belle Fagan, Olivia Mahaffey, Savannah Akers, Stella Largent, Nora Langgaard, Camdyn Richter, Leaya Klemish and Assistant Coach Sarah Sheeder. Front row: Becca Littler, Meranda Gruber, Karli Kautzky, Shay Lemke, Lillie Lauzon, Chelsea Kopaska and Caydence Boals.

**Head Coach Brad Baudler said he's looking for who's going to get offensive rebounds, who's going to be diving on the floor, who's running the floor, and who will be relentless in pursuit of their goals.**

BY CVOTE WILLIAMS

ACGC girls basketball had the unfortunate task of playing in the West Central Activities Conference last season. Two of the state's best teams were conference foes in Des Moines Christian (24-2) and

Panorama (25-2), both of which made the state tournament last year. ACGC ran into, and lost to, Panorama in the Class 2A Region 2 second round. The Chargers finished the season third in the conference

behind the two state qualifiers with a 16-6 record, their best since the 2006-2007 season.

"Three of our losses were to Panorama and, well, they ended up being second in the state. Then we lost to Des Moines Christian, a loss to Van Meter, another solid team, and then Coon-Rapids Bayard, who were ranked most of the year in 1A. So, all of our losses were to solid, well-known teams," Head Coach Bradley

Baudler said.

Replicating that type of success will be a challenge when faced with a difficult schedule, and losing three of last season's key players in Kelsey Carlson, Reagan Carney and Emerson Van Meter doesn't help. That burden is eased, though, when two of the best players are returning.

The senior class is made up of one senior, Shay Lemke. Typically, a team would want more than one senior, but Lemke is

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a great one to have. As a junior, she averaged a team-high 12.4 points per game, a team-high 5.5 assists per game and tied for a team-high in steals at 4.5, which was also seventh-highest in all of 2A.

“She was First Team All-Conference. We’re definitely excited to have her back at the point guard. We’re in good hands there,” Baudler said.

The junior class is much larger, consisting of Karli Kautzky, Savannah Akers, Becca Littler, Chelsea Kopaska, Camdyn Richter and Caydence Boals.

Richter had a huge impact on the team last season. As a sophomore, she averaged 11 points per game, second-best on the team, 2.4 steals per game and a team-high 6.5 rebounds. Baudler says he expects her to take another step forward in 2024-2025.

Littler was able to contribute a decent amount as a sophomore. She averaged 3.4 points per game, 1.5 steals and 1 assist.

Kautzky, Akers, Boals and Kopaska all had minimal contributions as sophomores on the senior-heavy team last year. All will have to step into new roles this year and make up for the lost production. Baudler

has high expectations for one in particular.

“I keep saying that Kautzky is going to be one of the most improved players in our conference. She’s put in a ton of work and become a way better shooter,” Baudler said.

Four sophomores are on this season’s team: Stella Largent, Miranda Gruber, Nora Langgaard and Olivia Mahaffey.

As a freshman, Largent made her presence known. She averaged 3.8 points per game and 2.2 steals and was second-best on the team with 5 rebounds.

Two freshmen made the roster, Lillie Lauzon and Kiera Boals. Baudler is ready to see which players on his young roster will fill the holes the seniors left behind.

“I’ve got girls who really didn’t play much varsity — Gruber, Mahaffey, Langgaard, Akers and Boals — but they’re definitely going to have to play this year. It’s kind of a fight, a competition, to see who is going to step up where we need them. It’s going to be exciting to see those first couple weeks and see who steps up and takes on those roles,” Baudler said.

One thing to notice in the returning

## ACGC 2024-2025 GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

- Nov. 25 vs. IKM-Manning
- Dec. 3 at West Central Valley at 6 p.m.
- Dec. 6 vs. Woodward-Granger at 6 p.m.
- Dec. 10 vs. Van Meter at 6 p.m.
- Dec. 13 vs. Ogden at 6:15 p.m.
- Dec. 16 vs. AHSTW at 6:15 p.m.
- Dec. 20 vs. Panorama at 6:15 p.m.
- Jan. 7 vs. Des Moines Christian at 6:15 p.m.
- Jan. 10 vs. Madrid at 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 11 vs. Exira-EHK at 3 p.m.
- Jan. 14 vs. Woodward-Granger at 6:15 p.m. at Wells Fargo Arena
- Jan. 17 at Earlham at 6 p.m.
- Jan. 20 at CAM at 6 p.m.
- Jan. 21 at Ogden at 6 p.m.
- Jan. 24 at Panorama at 6:15 p.m.
- Jan. 27 at Clarinda at 6 p.m.
- Jan. 30 vs. Interstate 35 at 6:15 p.m.
- Feb. 4 vs. West Central Valley at 6:15 p.m.
- Feb. 6 vs. Coon Rapids-Bayard at 6 p.m.
- Feb. 11 at Madrid at 6:30 p.m.

players’ stats is the number of steals this team had a year ago. Eight players averaged more than one steal per game, and five of those players are returning. That is where this team shined. The Chargers had 474 steals last season, best in the WCAC and fourth-best in the entire state.

“On the defensive end, we had our best defensive average at 38 points allowed, and we forced about 33 turnovers a game. We were really good on the defensive end. Our offense output was 50 points a game two years ago, and it was 54 last year,”

Baudler said.

Matching a staunch defense with an efficient offense tends to be a recipe for success. Those 54 points per game were the second-highest behind Panorama in the WCAC. If the Chargers can recreate that success this season, good things will come.

“We are expecting to play as well as last year, and, hopefully, exceed expectations. We’re excited, and we’re going to take it one day at a time, and, hopefully, at the end of the season, we’ll be really happy with what happens,” Baudler said. ■

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# PANTHERS SEEK TO REPLICATE LAST SEASON'S HISTORIC CAMPAIGN

Fresh off of a state title game berth, Panorama has a new head coach, Randy Miller.

BY CVOTE WILLIAMS

Panorama girls basketball is coming off of one of the greatest seasons in program history. The Panthers went 25-2 and 14-1 in the West Central Activities Conference. The two games they lost were by a combined three points. One was against WCAC champions Des Moines Christian and the other against Dike-New Hartford in the 2A state championship game.

Former head coach Kylee Boettcher accepted the Buena Vista head coaching gig in the offseason, and with her went one of the best players in school history, Tyme Boettcher. Four seniors started all 27 games: Boettcher, Jaidyn Sellers, Mia Waddle and Kaitlin Kent. Zoey Hambelton started 14 games, and Lindy Nelson played in all 27. The career record of that senior class was 91-12. That's a ton of production, now off the team.

Panorama is a powerhouse. Since at least 2007, the earliest year of Bound's archives, Panorama has not lost double-digit games in a season, and won 20 or more games 13 times. They also qualified for the state tournament in 2018, 2022, 2023 and 2024. There will be plenty of challenges to overcome this season if they want to continue



PHOTO BY BETTY COOPER

**PANORAMA GIRLS BASKETBALL ROSTER:** Back row: Corrie Knapp, Miranda Laabs, Morgan Crees, Addie Astley, Ashley Crees and Ruth Fett. Middle row: Heaven Copeland, Morgan Lutz, Neele Wirths, Lydia Lleshi, Hannah Dishman and Nerea Gimeno Perez. Front row: Jolynne Roeder, Kelsey Laabs, Arilyan Steenblock and Faith Recker.

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that trend.

Tasked with keeping that momentum going will be new head coach Randy Miller.

"It's a completely different team from last year. So, it's kind of a different feel. We graduated all those really good players, and I got a bunch of girls who are excited to get to play because the other girls, rightfully so, had all the time," Miller said.

This year's senior class includes Faith Recker, Kelsey Laabs, Arilyan Steenblock and Joelynn Roeder, who is new to the team this year.

Recker had to have surgery halfway through the season but still played in nine games and had the most points of these returning players with 16. She also had nine rebounds and four assists.

Arilyan Steenblock also had a midseason surgery. During her junior season, she had 11 points, 23 rebounds and 4 steals in her 13 games last season.

Kelsey Laabs had eight points, 17 rebounds and 7 assists in her 21 games.

Panorama did have a standout sophomore in Morgan Crees. She will be crucial in this season's success as the team's best re-

turning weapon on offense. Crees averaged 8.5 points per game, 4.2 rebounds, 2.7 assists and 2.1 steals. Now a junior, Miller says he hopes Crees will step up this season and take the lead.

Two other players make up the rest of the junior class: Lydia Lleshi and Addie Astley. Lleshi played in 4 games last season, while Astley is a new addition.

The sophomore class consists of Neele Wirths and Morgan Lutz. Both are new to the team this season.

Six freshmen make up the majority of the Panther squad this year: Ashley Crees, Ruth Fett, Hannah Dishman, Corrie Knapp, Heaven Copeland and Xiamara Monrroy-Nunez.

Miller has a simple message for his young team.

"We've just been talking about trying to get better. Just get better every day. Work hard, no matter what it is, as far as whatever skills we're working on. And not just basketball, you know, get better in school, get better at everything you do. That's what we've been talking to them about. Just keep improving, keep working, keep getting better," Miller said. ■

## PANORAMA 2024-2025 GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

- Nov. 26 vs. Creston at 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 3 vs. Woodward-Granger at 6:15 p.m.
- Dec. 5 vs. IKM-Manning at 6:15 p.m.
- Dec. 6 vs. Madrid at 6:15 p.m.
- Dec. 10 at Earlham at 6 p.m.
- Dec. 13 vs. West Central Valley at 6:15 p.m.
- Dec. 17 at Interstate 35 at 6 p.m.
- Dec. 20 at ACGC at 6:15 p.m.
- Jan. 3 vs. Pleasantville at 6:15 p.m.
- Jan. 10 vs. Ogden at 6:15 p.m.
- Jan. 16 vs. Nodaway Valley at 6:15 p.m.
- Jan. 17 at Van Meter at 6 p.m.
- Jan. 20 vs. Ankeny Christian at 6 p.m.
- Jan. 21 at West Central Valley at 6 p.m.
- Jan. 24 vs. ACGC at 6:15 p.m.
- Jan. 28 at Madrid at 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 30 vs. Exira-EHK at 6 p.m.
- Feb. 3 at Martensdale-St Marys at 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 4 at Woodward-Granger at 6 p.m.
- Feb. 7 at Des Moines Christian at 6:15 p.m.
- Feb. 11 at Ogden at 6:15 p.m.

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# ACGC RETURNS 4 STATE QUALIFIERS TO BOYS WRESTLING PROGRAM



PHOTO BY RICHMONDS

**ACGC BOYS WRESTLING ROSTER:** Back row: Gavin Sloss, Michael Fuller, Jackson Pfrang, Blaise Tallman and Jonathan Martinez. Middle row: Collin Stringham, Blake Ganzer, Nathan Van Effen, Arling Riis, Carter Richter, Lane Stringer, Ryder Cline, Cayden Larsen, Jack Sheeder, Aiden Grace and Ty Ganzer. Front row: Mallory Schreck, Assistant Coach Dan Woods, Morgun Nolte, Chase Slaybaugh, Angel Martinez, Head Coach Lane Rumelhart and Caleigh Wolfe

## Chargers tied a school record with six state qualifiers a year ago and enter this season with a roster packed full of talent.

BY CVOTE WILLIAMS

The ACGC boys wrestling team experienced a great deal of success last season. They produced solid team performances throughout the year, and the wrestlers stuffed the win column. The team sent six wrestlers, tied for a school record, to the Iowa High School State Tournament: Ryder Cline (144), Michael Fuller (190), Payton Jacobe (285), Carter Richter (215), Tegan Slaybaugh (120) and Gavin Sloss (126). Jacobe, who placed sixth, and Slaybaugh, who

placed third, were the only seniors and the only ones to place. That means the Chargers are returning four state tournament qualifiers. However, according to Head Coach Lane Rumelhart, it might not feel as successful as the stat sheets show.

“We still had great matches, even though none of them (the returners) actually came away with the win down there. I think all of them have higher goals set to get more than just a win down there this year, which is great. We had a couple kids on the fringe, too, that were really close to making it down there with them last year,” Rumelhart said.

Cline, a sophomore, Richter, a junior, and Fuller and Sloss, seniors, all return to the squad for the 2024-2025 season.

Joining Sloss and Fuller in the senior class are Blaise Tallman, Jackson Pfrang, Jonathan

Martinez and Taytum Bates. Martinez is new to the team this season.

Sloss went 38-18 last year wrestling at 126. He lost in the consolation bracket at state without winning a match, but his season up until that point was successful. He placed second at the 1A District 9 meet and fourth at the WCAC meet.

Fuller recorded a 38-15 record over the season wrestling at 190. He also lost in the consolation bracket at state without recording a win. He placed second at the district meet and second at the WCAC meet as well.

Tallman, wrestling at 165, finishing his junior year campaign with a 12-22 record.

Pfrang went 30-20 during the season wrestling at 165. Pfrang finished fourth at the district meet.

Taytum Bates, wrestling at 150, finished

the season just above .500 with a 14-13 record. He placed fourth at the district meet.

ACGC has a large junior class including Chase Slaybaugh (138), Erling Riis (150), Angel Martinez (175), Carter Richter (215), Jack Sheeder (285), Finn Billheimer, Charlie Christensen, Tate Fever, Collin Stringham and Brennan Tunink. Riis is new to the team this season.

Richter, 26-21 during the regular season, was a state qualifier at 215. While Richter did not place at the state meet, his journey was impressive. At the WCAC meet, he placed sixth. After losing in the semifinals at regionals, Richter would battle his way back to the second-place match, winning his matchup to secure a spot at state.

Chase Slaybaugh wrestled at 113 last season and has bumped up to 138 this year.



## ACGC 2024-2025 BOYS WRESTLING SCHEDULE

- Dec. 5: ACGC High School Quadrangular at 5 p.m.
- Dec. 7: Woodward-Granger High School Tournament at 10 a.m.
- Dec. 12: Lenox High School Quadrangular at 5 p.m.
- Dec. 14: Riverside High School Boys Wrestling Tournament at 10 a.m.
- Dec. 17: Pleasantville High School Quadrangular at 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 19: Ogden High School Quadrangular at 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 4: Lisbon Community High School Duals at 10 a.m.
- Jan. 11: Tri-Center High School Invitational at 10 a.m.
- Jan. 16: Riverside High School Quadrangular at 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 18: West Central Activities Conference Wrestling Tournament at Interstate 35 High School at 9 a.m.
- Jan. 21: South Central Calhoun Middle School Triangular at 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 24: John J. Harris Tournament at Southwest Valley High School at 4 p.m.
- Jan. 25: John J. Harris Tournament at Southwest Valley High School at 10 a.m.
- Jan. 28: at Perry High School at 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 1: Charger Invitational at ACGC High School at 9:30 a.m.

Slaybaugh went 27-19 during his sophomore year campaign. He performed well at the WCAC meet, placing third. At the district meet, Slaybaugh finished fourth, ending his impressive year.

Charlie Christensen wrestled at 132 last season and finished the year above .500 at 19-14. Christensen performed well at the district meet, placing third.

Tate Fever went 19-19 during the 2023-2024 season, wrestling at 138. Fever placed sixth at the WCAC tournament and fourth at districts.

Collin Stringham went 8-19 wrestling at weights between 138 and 150 throughout the year.

Brennan Tunink went 0-3 at 190 during his limited time on the varsity roster.

Angel Martinez scored a 10-20 record wrestling at 150 during his sophomore year.

Jack Sheeder wrestled 15 matches at 285 during the season, going 10-5 during that time.

This year's sophomore class is also sizeable, consisting of Nathan Van Effen (120), Ty Ganzer (138), Tripp Mendoza (144), Ryder Cline (150), Morgun Nolte (165), Brandon Carlson (175), Aiden Grace and Cole Van Meter. Grace is new to the team this year. Van Meter was on the roster but did not record any varsity matches.

Cline had the best season of the incoming sophomores, qualifying for the state tournament as a freshman. He went 22-12 wrestling at 144. Cline placed third at the conference meet and second at the district meet. He ended up facing the same opponent who beat him at districts, Riverside's Jaxon Gordan, in the second round of the consolation

bracket of the state tournament.

The other incoming sophomores who gained considerable mat time as freshmen were Mendoza, who went 0-10; Ganzer, who went 12-18; Nolte, who went 10-12; and Carlson, who went 7-28.

Three freshmen are on the roster this season: Caden Larsen (120), Lane Stringer (144) and Blake Ganzer (190).

Rumelhart doesn't like to put hard lines on where he thinks his team will finish, but he still has expectations.

"I just want to see my guys give me their best effort. We're ranked 19th as a team right now — kind of a weird world in wrestling where ranking as a team actually matters. You have to be ranked in the top 24 to make the postseason in the dual format," Rumelhart said. "So, as far as expectation goes, I think I see us higher than that. I don't think 19th is good enough. I want to see us climb that. It's going to take some really competitive wrestling right out of the gate."

The roster this year is deep and brimming with talent, something Rumelhart is more than pleased with. This creates healthy competition within his own team for players to vie for important spots.

"As far as I'm concerned, no one is guaranteed a varsity spot from last year. I think everybody's got to work for it and earn it again. We are going to push about 30 kids on the roster. I think that might even be a record. I don't know that we've ever had a roster of 30 kids whether it's Guthrie Center or ACGC. I know in my time with ACGC, we've never been close to that. So, depth is a good thing. Kids are going to have to earn their spot," Rumelhart said. ■



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# CROP OF SENIORS HOPES TO BUILD ON LAST SEASON'S SUCCESS



**PANORAMA BOYS WRESTLING ROSTER:** BBack row: Dylan Donovan, Blake Schwartz, Laine Christie, Will Knapp, Landon Kirtley, Joel Cooper, Gabe Wager, Syler Shaffer and Austin Wagner. Middle row: Adrien Leon, Logan Ritter, Nate Spencer, Zach Hayden, Hayden Byerly, Blake Holman, Landon Byerly and Connor Deardorff. Front row: Cobyn Snyder, Blake Heckman, Kyle Lestina, Eli Cooper, Sam Hansen, Blake Buckner and Jaxon Vogel.

## Panorama sent two wrestlers to the state meet last year. The team aims to raise that number in 2024-2025.

BY CVOTE WILLIAMS

Panorama boys wrestling sent two wrestlers to the Iowa High School State Championship Tournament last year: senior Cayden Vanmeer (175) and junior Joel Cooper (285). Vanmeer had an incredible season for the Panthers with an overall record of 40-3. After a second-round loss in the championship bracket, Vanmeer would win two consolation round matchups before losing in the round four consolation matchup. Cooper also won his first-round matchup in the championship bracket, with his season eventually ending in the first round of the consolation bracket.

Compiling all of Panorama's wins over the season, the team won a total of 401 match-

ups with 245 losses. For team points, Panorama scored 1,870 points to its opponents' 429 over the 2023-2024 season. Most importantly, in the crucial tournaments of the season, the WCAC tournament, 1A District 7 tournament and the state tournament, the boys posted positive results, going 22-17 at the WCAC, 23-21 at the district tournament and 5-4 at the state meet.

It was a successful season for the senior class. Vanmeer had a solid campaign with his 40-3 overall record as well as winning several matches at the state tournament. Two other seniors left the program: Colby Waltz (215), who went 6-11 in his senior season, and Isaac Monrroy-Nunez, who finished his season 30-17.

The Panthers will have more experience during its 2024-2025 campaign. Five seniors are on the roster: Joel Cooper, Laine Christie, Landon Kirtley, Will Knapp and Gabe Wagner.

Cooper, as mentioned, took his season all the way to the state tournament. He posted

a 36-11 individual record last year at 285 and dominated at the 1A District 7 tournament, placing first with 24 points and winning all three of his matchups by fall. He will be back this season, aiming to replicate that success and go even further.

Lane Christie (106) only wrestled 18 matches last season and went an impressive 15-3. He missed a chunk of last season, with his most recent competition being the Southeast Valley quad in the middle of December. If he can put a full season together, he could make some noise late in the season.

Landon Kirtley (144) went 36-16 during his junior year. Kirtley finished fourth at the district meet, just short of a potential state tournament berth. The same goes for Will Knapp, who wrestled at 138, finishing fourth at the district meet, just missing out on keeping his season alive.

Gabe Wagner (157) rounds out this year's senior class. Wagner also had a solid 2023-2024 campaign, finishing his season with a

36-11 record. Wagner just came up short in the WCAC meet, finishing second at 157 to Woodward-Granger's Oliver Porter. Wagner also placed third at the district meet.

Panorama is full of juniors this season: Landon Byerly, Dylan Donovan, Blake Holman, Blake Schwartz, Syler Shaffer, Nate Spencer and Austin Wagner. Shaffer, Schwartz and Wagner all finished their sophomore years with positive records.

Schwartz bounced around between 144-150 last season, finishing with a 21-14 record. He performed well at the WCAC meet, placing third at 150.

Wagner wrestled at 132 for most of the season, also going up to 139 and 144 during his sophomore season. He finished the year with a 23-18 record. He placed fourth at the WCAC meet, wrestling at 132.

Shaffer (120) also finished with an individual record above .500, going 21-20.

Donovan mainly wrestled at 150 during his few varsity appearances, going 3-3. Spencer also had limited action on varsity-



## PANORAMA 2024-2025 BOYS WRESTLING SCHEDULE

- Dec. 3: Kick off Triangular at Nodaway Valley Middle School at 6 p.m.
- Dec. 5: Mason Northwestern High School Boys Quadrangular at 6 p.m.
- Dec. 7: Treynor Community School West Gym at 10 a.m.
- Dec. 10: Panorama High School Boys Quadrangular at 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 13: Dan Christensen Invitational at Central Decatur High School at 1 p.m.
- Dec. 19: Ogden High School Quadrangular at 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 11: PCM High School Wrestling Invite at 9 a.m.
- Jan. 16: Southwest Valley High School Boys Wrestling Dual at 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 18: West Central Activities Conference Wrestling Tournament at Interstate 35 High School at 9 a.m.
- Jan. 21: Panorama High School Boys Quadrangular at 5 p.m.
- Jan. 24: John J. Harris Tournament at Southwest Valley High School Activity Center at 4 p.m.
- Jan. 25: John J. Harris Tournament at Southwest Valley High School Activity Center at 10 a.m.
- Feb. 1: Charger Invitational at ACGC High School at 9:30 a.m.

ty, mainly wrestling at 144. He went 3-7 during his sophomore season.

The same goes for Holman, who went 2-9 wrestling at 106 and 113.

Byerly did not record a result for Panorama last season.

Four sophomores round out the Panther roster: Hayden Byerly, Eli Cooper, Zach Hayden and Blake Heckman.

Heckman had plenty of action as a fresh-

man. Wrestling at 126, he went 10-23.

Eli Cooper found the mat a handful of times at 132, going 5-9 in the process.

Byerly wrestled nine duals at 126 on varsity, going 0-9.

With a returning state appearance wrestler in Joel Cooper, and a few other seniors and juniors who narrowly missed out on joining him, Panorama is primed to build on last season's success. ■

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# PANORAMA GIRLS WRESTLING ROSTER BOLSTERED WITH HELP OF ACGC

The rivals are teaming up for the 2024-2025 season.

BY CVOTE WILLIAMS

In 2023-2024, Panorama girls wrestling sent a team of eight wrestlers to the IGHSAU Regional Qualifier. Two wrestlers ended up placing at the meet, Ella Carico (100) and Gracie Recker (155), who both placed fifth, sending no wrestlers to the state meet. That's still not bad considering the program, and girls wrestling itself, is still relatively new in Iowa.

Panorama graduated three seniors: Natalie Donovan (115), Georgia Flanery (140) and Jauclyn Curry (170). The rest of last year's group consisted of one junior, one sophomore and five freshmen.

Heading into 2024-2025, Panorama will be teaming up with ACGC girls wrestling, boosting its roster numbers and talent level. The team also started competing in matches much earlier than the other winter sports. So, how are the two schools connecting?

"The season's going great," Head Coach Dan Wagner said. "We're meshing really well together. We've got a lot of girls that are helping with technique and fundamentals from different aspects and just making everything that much better. We've got a lot of strong leaders in the room from both sides."

The senior class has two athletes, Jeslyn Ortega (115) and Hali Klingenberg (235), both coming over from ACGC. To start the year, Ortega is 2-4, while Klingenberg is 3-4.

That's already an improvement from last year for Ortega. As a junior for ACGC, wrestling at 110, she went 1-14.

As for Klingenberg, she's already tied her win total from a year ago. Last season she went 3-10 wrestling at 235.

Three wrestlers make up the junior class: Carico (110), Jacie Baker (130) and Lucy Knutter (190). Baker is from ACGC, and Knutter is new to the program this season.

Carico, one of the two Panorama wrestlers who placed at the regional qualifier, wrestled at 100 last season and went 9-14. Now wrestling at 110 for the Panthers, her record currently sits at 4-2.

Baker was ACGC's most accomplished wres-



**PANORAMA GIRLS WRESTLING ROSTER:** Back row: Natalie Waltz, Gracie Recker, Emma Walker, Lucy Knutter, Hali Klingenberg, Miley Nolan and Cadence Petersen. Front row: Jacie Baker, Jeslyn Ortega, Ella Carico, Dafne Hernandez, Emma Brown and Piper Downing.

tlar last season. In her junior season, wrestling at 120, she went 22-12. She placed first at the WCAC tournament but would fail to qualify for state after placing sixth at the Regionals.

The sophomore group is Natalie Waltz (110), currently 3-2; Emma Brown (115), currently 1-2; Cadence Petersen (115), currently 3-3; Piper Downing (135), currently 4-2; Dafne Hernandez (155) and Gracie Recker (155), currently 5-3. Peterson, Brown, Downing and Hernandez are from ACGC.

Last season, Waltz went 16-19 and placed second at the WCAC tournament wrestling at 110.

As a freshman, Brown went 0-22. Her 1-2 record at the moment is already an improvement.

Petersen experienced some success as a freshman. She went 5-11 wrestling at 105 and placed second at the WCAC tournament.

Downing went 8-18 in her freshman year for ACGC. She placed second at the WCAC tournament at 135.

Hernandez brings her 2-18 record from her first varsity season at ACGC to Panorama.

Recker was arguably Panorama's most accomplished wrestler from last season. She went 19-13 wrestling at 155 and placed fifth at the regional qualifier meet and took first place at the conference meet.

Two freshmen round out the Panther roster: Miley Nolan (120), currently 1-3, and Emma Walker (190), who is currently 5-2.

Carico, Baker and Recker all fell just short in

## PANORAMA 2024-2025 GIRLS WRESTLING SCHEDULE

- Dec. 2: Manson Northwest Webster High School Tournament at 5 p.m.
- Dec. 6: Woodward-Granger Girls High School Wrestling Tournament at 5 p.m.
- Dec. 10: Ames High School Triangular at 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 13: Riverside Girls High School Tournament at 5 p.m.
- Dec. 16: Saydel Girls High School Invitational at 4 p.m.
- Dec. 19: West Central Activities Conference Girls Wrestling Tournament at Woodward-Granger High School at 4:30 p.m.
- Jan. 7: Panorama Girls High School Wrestling Invite at 5 p.m.
- Jan. 11: Girl's Tiger Invitational at Cedar Falls High School at 10 a.m.
- Jan. 17: Perry Girls High School Wrestling Invite at 5 p.m.

qualifying for state While that may be disappointing in the short term, it serves as a jumping-off point for this season.

"That's a bright spot to look forward to. Obviously, they want to try to punch their ticket to get there, and they've got some of the tools and the resources. All three I know worked incredibly hard in the off-season to try to go that extra step. I'm expecting big things out of them," Wagner said.

With a lot of returning talent from his own school, and some solid returning talent from ACGC, Wagner has high hopes for the season ahead.

"We should be right there, depending on what the layout looks like for the district assignments and how the brackets shake out. We should be sending a handful of girls to state. And that's the standard that I want to hold them to," Wagner

said.

Wagner is enjoying seeing how his team is growing and how the sport, as a whole, is developing.

"There was a handful of girls last year on the junior high side that didn't know about it. They were kind of curious but hesitant at the same time. And then to see them actually go out on the mat and compete for the first time and fall in love with the sport. It's absolutely mind-blowing and amazing to witness that. It's one of the most pure forms of enjoyment as a coach," Wagner said.

Wagner is excited and, needless to say, so are his athletes.

"They have a mantra, and it's 'GIRLS' on three," Wagner said. "They're very proud, and I want to be there to support them through this journey and every step of the way that I possibly can." ■

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