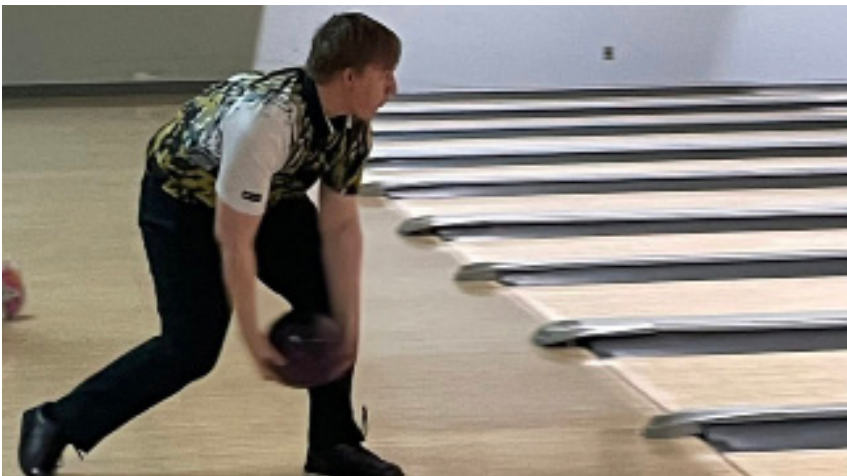


8 - SPORTS



Above: Freshman Karley Christian lines up her throw at her first bowling competition of the season.



Above: Sophomore Noah Covey launches his bowling ball down the lane for a possible strike.

Bowling aims for a “strike” of a season

Teams’ growth continues to be strong in year 4



By
Carrie Epp
*McCool Jct.
Head Bowling
Coach*

We have 16 bowlers out this year. We will be able to have a boys’ varsity, girls’ varsity, and boys’ JV team. We are returning several bowlers from last year, but have also added several newbies. We expect that the bowlers show up to every practice ready to give it 100 percent. Last year, we graduated several seniors. With that in mind we knew this would be a year of encouraging students to try something new, maybe something they never thought about before or thought that they would be good at. On the first day

of practice, we watch their form, help them find and fit proper equipment, and begin working with them to advance their personal scores.

The bowling teams and the program as a whole, has really grown in the few years since its return. We have a complete schedule thanks to the bowler’s dedication, hard work, and Mr. Stark persistence. Five years ago when bowling started they had enough students to make two teams: varsity and JV. In the past four years since I have been a part of the team we have been able to have varsity boys, varsity girls and JV boys. I would say overall the culture looks good and feels good. We have several upper classmen that are guiding our newbies. They continually support each other and encourage them

to do their best.

When I was asked to help with bowling I didn’t know a thing, literally. The first couple of years I was learning right alongside the students. Teaching definitely helps when coaching. We learned that not all students learn the same way. Some pick up the sport easily while others it takes more time.

We could see several individuals head to state this year and possibly a whole team. We never want to put the cart before the horse. They still have to choose to put in the time and effort in order to reach their goals. Being a class D school we compete against many class B schools. Our districts are held with mostly class B schools. We will have our work cut out for us.

“CHAMPS”, from Page 1

Overall, Kitto has been very impacted by this sport. She states how happy she is to be a part of a team who always gives their all.

“Cross country has definitely made me happier,” says Kitto, “I love being with people who put in effort and want to be successful.” Kitto also states how she is going to put in even more training and effort for years to come.

The girl’s team won their first state title back in 2020. Four years later, the Mustang girls’ won the 2024 state title. Head Coach, Ryan Underwood, has been a big part of all the teams success over the years. On the day of state, Underwood knew that the team had put in lots of training, yet there was lots of competition compared to last year. The girl’s team was ranked second, next to Crofton, all year. He knew that in order for them to come on top, Clark or Kitto had to run their best race yet. With lots of personal records for each girl, they ended up as Class D Champions for the second year in a row. Overall, Underwood stated how the team is such a resilient group of girls. With lots of injuries throughout the year, they still managed to fight through and came out as champions.

“I love their ability, when things were challenging, to push through that,” Underwood said about this year’s state champions.



Above: Sophomore Kayleigh Betka smiled, after receiving her medal for fifth place at the State Cross Country meet.



Above: Senior Claire Brugger enjoyed running her last race at State Cross Country.



Above: Freshman Kayliana Kitto pushes through the final stretch at State Cross Country. This performance helped the Mustang girls get the gold.

“PLAYOFFS”, from Page 1

“I don’t think one individual stood out as much as it takes eight guys collectively on the field, and each one doing their job to be successful.” said Weiss.

I thought every player who contributed had a key role and stepped up each and every night.” said Coach Weiss.

The community played a huge role in their success. Fans filled the stands every Friday night, creating an atmosphere that motivated the players. Staying healthy was one of the most important factors in making it to the playoffs. With only 15 players on the team, everyone’s health mattered.

The switch to six-man football next year brings new challenges and opportunities, but the returning players are already preparing for the upcoming season.

Despite the season ending earlier than hoped, the Mustangs’ hard work will help them in the next season. It will be interesting to see what they have to offer next year in six-man football.



Above: The starting eight boys rally together before their first round of playoffs. This performance would punch their ticket to the second round of playoffs against Dundy County Stratton.



Above: Sophomore Colby Yates gets prepared for the next play.



Above: Seniors Ja Soukup and Carson McDonald high five after tying the game against Arcadia-Loup City.