



# NORTHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

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# 2024

# FALL SPORTS & ACTIVITIES



## NORTHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL



Gavin Taff is back to lead the Kids at quarterback this season.

# Football team sees plenty of changes for this season

BY JEFF MOELLER  
Special to the Press

New faces and new places.

It easily can be a phrase to describe the Northampton football team's campaign in 2024. The Konkrete Kids have plenty of new faces in their lineup and they will be dealing with a new landscape.

The Kids have left the East Penn Conference (EPC) North Division where they compiled an overall 55-15 record and won three consecutive EPC North crowns.

Last season, the Kids finished the year with an overall 10-3 record. Their season ended in a District 11 Class 6A semifinal loss to eventual champion Nazareth.

This season, the Kids will play in the Northampton County Division, and their line-

up will feature some new weapons.

Quarterback Gavin Taff is back, and he threw for 1,294 yards with 12 touchdowns. Former Catasauqua quarterback Aiden Hess transferred, and he could be in the running for playing time.

"Taff executed the offense during the summer and did a nice job," said Kids' head coach John Toman. "Hess made some strides in grasping our offensive concept. We like our depth at that position."

The Kid did lose all-time leading rusher Caden Henritzy – who ran for more than 1,200 yards last season – to graduation.

But Billy Stuhldreher, who ran for 465 yards with nine scores returns, and he will be the lead back.

One of the main weapons for the Kids this fall will be wide receiver Tyrmir Williams, who went down with a knee injury on the opening kickoff of last season with a knee injury that sidelined him for the entire year.

Williams is anxious to get back on the field.

"I don't have issues running, and I can't wait to get back on the field," said Williams. "It has been a while since I have been out there."

"I never had any other major injuries like this before."

Aside from the backfield, the Kids will have some changes on both their offensive and defensive lines.

"The offensive and defensive lines will continue to be a work in progress," said Toman. "We slot some great players that need to be replaced. We think we have the guys to do it, but you can't replace experience."

In reference to the new schedule, Toman plans to roll with it.

"As far as the season ahead, I have no idea," he offered. "We are going to take one game at a time. We want to focus on getting better with each game."

"Of course it's a bigger challenge playing more (EPC) South teams. The week-in-and-week-out grind of the schedule will be a challenge."

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## NORTHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL



Gavin Pychinka is back for the Kids as the golf team looks to build off last year's historic season.

# Golfers ready for more success in '24

BY SCOTT PAGEL  
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The Northampton golf team is looking to build off last year's historic season.

It was a year ago the golfers went undefeated for the season, winning both the EPC league title and the EPC tournament title.

Expectations are high again this season despite the loss of four seniors to graduation.

"We aim to win back-to-back league championships and compete for a District XI championship," said head coach Brian Davies. "As a team, we have one main rival, Nazareth. We beat them by one stroke last year to go undefeated in a memorable match."

Despite the loss of four players, this year's team returns four key returners from last sea-

son, and, four new faces in the starting lineup.

Senior Captain Gavin Pychinka is a top-five golfer in the EPC and is a contender for the league and district championship, Davies said.

"Gavin is a four-year starter and has a goal of making the PIAA state championship. His steady leadership is key to the success of Northampton golf this season," Davies added.

Senior Kohler Strohl is another top-five golfer who has put a lot of effort into his game, according to his coach. "He has improved from a 98 average in his freshman year to a 72 average as a senior. Kohler looks to make a run at the league and district championships," Davies added.

Senior Jayden Bleiler is also a four-year start-

er who currently averages a 78.

"He will be a key piece to Northampton's team success this season and has a chance to make some noise at leagues and districts," Davies said.

Senior Gabe Gower is embracing his role as a starter, according to Davies.

"Gabe started averaging 112 as a freshman and has improved to an 80 average as a senior," Davies said. "Like Jayden, Gabe will be an important piece of our team's success this season."

Four sophomores round out the lineup and look to contribute this season while building experience for the future: Derek Moyer, CJ Stumpf, Andrew Eberts and Corbin Miller.



Kohler Strohl is back for the Northampton golf team and is a senior.



## NORTHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL



Brooke Saul is a key returning player for the field hockey team this season.



Octavia Reichelderfer is back between the pipes for the Kids this year.

# Field hockey looks to keep streak, and aims for another District 11 berth

BY TOM WENBORG  
Special to the Press

Last year's Northampton field hockey field hockey team finished on a high note, knocking off Nazareth in the district playoffs to advance to the semifinals before losing to eventual champion Emmaus.

Eight starters graduated from that squad, including EPC All-Stars Raegan and Kendall Iasiello and Northampton Press Female Athlete of

the Year Ella Steier.

The new-look K-Kids will attempt to continue the program's streak of never having missed districts during the current EPC era.

The offense will rely heavily on dynamic midfielder Brooke Saul, who recently committed to play field hockey at Division II Frostburg State (MD) University after graduating from Northampton. Senior Octavia Reichelderfer

returns to guard the cage after being the team's primary starter in goal last year.

Senior Mackenzie Connell (F/B) and junior Julia Behnke (M) join Saul as tri-captains.

The other senior varsity players are Taylor Dotter (B), Kylie McFetridge (F), and Maggie Woolslayer (B).

A large junior contingent includes Alyssa Chromey (M), Kennedy Hirner-Brophy (F), Ril-

eigh Koder (F), Gianna Licini (F), Lauren Reznick (F), Grace Roberts (M), Jordan Saul (B), Aviana Snyder (F), Alexandra Tretiak (F), and Lily Yusko (F).

Sophomores Hailey Barreto (M), Kailyn Gevaud-Mollenkoff (G), Kadee Medei (M), and freshman Madison Williamson round out the varsity roster.

Head coach Carrie Saul provided her assessment of the roster,

"With the loss of 8 starters, a lot of the returning players are in new roles, new leadership roles and we're hoping that the girls that have that intense varsity experience from last season are able to help the new girls fill in those roles."

"A lot of the girls are rising to the occasion and one of the question marks is who's going to work best together. A lot of them are versatile. It's a bit of a blessing and a

curse. The versatility is great, but finding out where each one fits best is a challenge," she continued.

Brooke Saul shared her thoughts going into her senior season, "I'm excited, but I also think about how it's the last time I'm going to be a K-Kid. I'm excited to play in college, but I think this last season of high school is going to be fun and I really like the team."

NORTHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

Cheerleaders ready for upcoming season

BY SCOTT PAGEL  
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The Northampton cheerleaders are again poised for another busy season.

This year's varsity team will be led by coach Mia Guadagnino. The squad will be made up of:

Varsity: Sophie Burkhart (12), Ava Clapp (12), Bryana Fenstermacher (12), Rileigh Hudson (12), Aaliyah Kleintop (12), Kymber Koehler (12), Mylea Lambert (12), Kayla Lesisko (12), Emily Metz

(12), Savana Williams (12), Addison Gardner (11), Treasure Kelly (11), Chloe Kunsman (11), Jenna Moran (11), Valencía Rivera (11), Gabby Rothrock (11), Madison Andrews (10), Mya Arocho (10), Aubrey Dochat (10), Alyiah Ferrer (10), Hannah Flamisch (10), Daniella Passanisi (10), Abigail Pennington (10), Haileigh (10), Ella Schrampf (10).

Varsity captains are Clapp, Fenstermacher and Hudson.

The JV coach is Mariana Schrap and the

middle school coach is Courtney Kokolus.

JV captains are Ava Cermak and Taylor Sipel.

Middle school captains are Makinley Freed, Sophia Giandomenico and Maci Hughes.

The junior varsity team will be made up of: Kamarr Collins (11), Autumn Saylor (11), Ava Cermak (10), Madelyn Coughlan (10), Paityn Kimak (10), Morga Shehab (10), Taylor Sipel (10), Mia Watson (10), Summer Ziegler (10),

Olivia Deutsch (9), Sophia Farrell (9), Bailey Gurski (9), Abigail Lesisko (9), Hailey Myer (9), Isabella Trompiz (9), Giavonna Volkert (9), Ava Williams (9)

The middle school will be made up of: Makinley Freed (8), Sophia Giandomenico (8), Maci Hughes (8), Katie Johnson (8), Ella Roth (8), Emma Angle (7), Kiera Barthol (7), Peyton Campbell (7), Yvannalise Cruz (7), Macyn Davidick (7), Autumn Dochat (7), Norah Edelman (7), Brenna Fisher

(7), Courtney Flamisch (7), Aubrey Gurski (7), Nevaeh Houser (7), Jayliana Lopez (7), Janiyah Madera (7), Riley Miller (7), Makenah Novak (7), Natalye Walker (7), Chloe Ziegler (7).

On Oct. 11, Northampton cheerleading alumni will join the varsity team on the track to cheer during the first half of the homecoming game.

On Nov. 3 is the Northampton Area Cheer Challenge, where for the third year in a row, the varsity compe-

tition team will be hosting a competition for youth, middle school, and high school cheerleading programs at Northampton.

"Our coaching staff is so excited to announce that we will be adding a junior high competition team to our program this season," said Guadagnino. "This team is composed of athletes in 7th-9th grade and will travel with our varsity competition team to competitions in our area."



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## NORTHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

# Girls bring the experience among 13 senior returners

BY TOM WENBORG  
Special to the Press

There will be no lack of experience on the Konkrete Kids' girls soccer team this upcoming season. The varsity roster boasts an astonishing 13 seniors, plus 2 juniors that have been with the program since they were freshman.

The wealth of talent and experience have hopes high that the girls can hang their first banner in Pete Schneider Gymnasium in school history.

The team's senior quad-captains are Emma Fry (2023 1st

Team All-EPC Goalkeeper), Chloe Watson (2023 2nd Team All-EPC Midfielder), Brooke Petraglia (M), and Juliana Medei (D).

Olivia Abrachinsky (F), Anne Beenders (F), Hannah Bowers (D), Brianna Caulwell (F/M), Peyton Kleppinger (D), Lilly Konya (F/M), Victoria Phillips (F), Lindsay Reimer (D), and Megan Weaver (D) are the other member of the Class of 2025.

Brielle Szoke (F) and Saige Korpics (M) are the juniors on the squad. Szoke missed the entire 2023 campaign with

an injury after having scored the game-winning goal against Nazareth in the 2022 district quarterfinals as a freshman. Alayna Hahn is the sole sophomore.

Head coach Michael Missmer addressed the expectations for the team, "We're trying not to get too far ahead of ourselves. We have a lot of work to do. We're trying to downplay it (expectations) a little bit. We're trying not make it all about the seniors. It's about the whole team. I think we are all aware of what our potential is. We're also aware that

potential is great, but it doesn't really mean anything."

"I'm excited. I think it's going to be a good year. The girls have bought in. Every single senior grew up with the program here. They understand our expectations. There are so many times when I'm about to say something... and it's already taken of because they understand what we expect. They care of it on their own and that's a good spot for the program to be in," he concluded.



The girls bring back Chloe Watson, who was a second team EPC midfielder last year.



Sebastian Mello is back for the boys soccer team this season.

# Boys look for an encore

BY JEFF MOELLER  
Special to the Press

Recording their best season in school history by winning the East Penn Conference (EPC) last season, Northampton's boys' soccer team is hoping for an encore. Or getting close to it.

The Konkrete Kids posted an overall 19-3-1, as they won the EPC crown and then advanced to the District 11 Class 6A semifinal round before they suffered a 5-3 defeat to Freedom. Northampton's other two losses were to Freedom and Parkland during the regular season.

Second-year head coach Chris Bastidas enjoyed every moment along the magical ride.

"It was really special," he gushed. "The

guys worked extremely hard from the start of last season, and they really believed that they could do it.

"We moved some players around, and they accepted their new roles. The players could sense something good was going to happen. They faced many challenges, and they overcame them in the end with the league title."

Speaking of challenges, the Kids will have a few more this season. Two major ones will be getting back to the EPC playoffs and to the district playoffs.

From the EPC championship team, the Kids have lost all-time Lehigh Valley goal scorer midfielder Jackson Vajda, forward Delali Tsome, forward Brady Dolak,

defender Mason Haupt, defender Antonio Del Priore, and goalie Ethan Schrampf.

Simply put, there will be some big shoes to fill.

Bastidas will look to midfielder Sebastian Mello, forward Brody Eisenhart, defender Dante Keen, defender Aaron Gutkowski, and midfielder Luca Manino. Blake Tuner has a great preseason, and Lucas Tovar and Alex Schrampf will be counted on for big roles in the midfield.

"Mello is able to control the flow of the game," said Bastidas. "Eisenhart reads the game and finishes well, and was among the league leaders in assists. Keen will move to the infield to aid our attack.

"Gutkowski is a

strong defender who will break up many plays, and Manino has a great touch and plays great through balls."

Midfielder/defenders Jace Vajda and Blake Levenberg are younger players who can blossom into regular contributors. Xander McDonald and Ryan Nahf were battling for the top spot in the nets.

Overall, Bastidas understands that it could be an initial uphill climb this season.

"We lost a lot of our attacking prowess from last season and are looking for goal scorers to step up," added Bastidas. "We have a great goalkeeper battle going on right now.

"I'm excited for this team to make their mark on the conference."





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## NORTHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL



Ava Auiisio is back for the tennis team and will see her time at number-one singles.

# Tennis team brings back experience

BY TOM WENBORG  
Special to the Press

The Northampton girls tennis team comes into their 2024 campaign off of a 6-10 season last year and with reasonable expectations.

Head coach Danielle Bowman presented the outlook for this year's squad, "I lost five seniors, but almost everyone in the starting lineup played last year, even if it was low doubles or exhibition. So they all come with experience. The only new one to the team is Hayden Nagy. She played soccer the past two seasons but decided to switch over to tennis."

"They've been working hard this summer. It wasn't easy to get on

our courts because they were being resurfaced, but they found courts in Moore Township, Bicentennial Park and Whitehall to play on. I'd like to get a couple of more wins and get my 1 and 2 singles players into districts as a doubles team," continued Bowman.

As the team competed for spots in the preseason, the following lineup emerged and Bowman feels that it will remain relatively stable.

Ava Aulisio, Gianna Lorenz, and Claire Lack are the one, two, and three singles players. The four doubles teams in order are: Keely Holland & Dahlia Janis, Mya Cruz & Emilee Gaughran, Joy Samaan & Emily Kemmerer, and

Olivia Hayes & Hayden Nagy.

Senior co-captains Aulisio and Lorenz discussed their roles on the squad. "We came on to the team sophomore year. Everyone was very welcoming to us and we want to do that with the girls who are coming out for the team for the first time," explained Aulisio.

"It would be cool to qualify for EPCs or districts," said Lorenz. "Coming from a small school that's not really known for tennis, it would be nice to represent the team. We had two girls make EPCs last year and we were very proud of them and I hope that we can get there too."



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## NORTHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL



Liv Jusinski is looking to improve on her finishes in the EPC, district and state meets this season.

# Goals remain high for harriers despite low numbers

BY SCOTT PAGEL  
spagel@tnonline.com

The Northampton cross country team may not be large in terms of runners, but it's not going to stop them for winning as many meets as they can this fall.

"The team is small in numbers this fall, but are working hard to compete for a winning record in the EPC," said head coach Dan Benner.

On the boys side, there are three returning runners from last season with seniors Abel Veltri and Edwin Wright along with junior Caden Dempsey.

Senior Stephen Bastow is back after missing last year with an injury. Newcomer Tobias Scott is a sophomore and joining cross country for the first time.

"The boys have been working well as a group and the work ethic so far gives them a good chance to compete despite the lower numbers," Benner said.

The girls have a bunch of returners in senior Olivia Kuhns, juniors Liv Jusinski and Juliana Joseph, and sophomores Aurora Greene and Jocelyn Perl. The team also has one freshman newcomer in Grace Schall, who is up from the middle school team.

Last year Jusinski qualified for the state meet in Hershey while also medaling at both the EPC and District XI



Edwin Wright is one of three key returning runners for the boys team.

championships, and improving upon those performances this season is the goal for the junior runner.

"The girls team shows a lot of potential and if the work is put in, they can also be in the hunt for a winning record this season," Benner said.

The coaching staff is back again with coach Mike Miller helping out with the high school team and coach Jon Stevens and coach Jackie

Grejda working with the middle school team. Coach Ashley Benner will once again be bouncing back and forth to help with both teams.

"We have our annual home invite at Bicentennial Park and it continues to grow in size as we are up and beyond 50 teams this year and over 1,200 athletes competing," Benner said. "We are looking forward to opening our season at home with our own invite."





PHOTO COURTESY OF BISHOP PHOTO

The band will be entertaining crowds again this season and representing Northampton High School.



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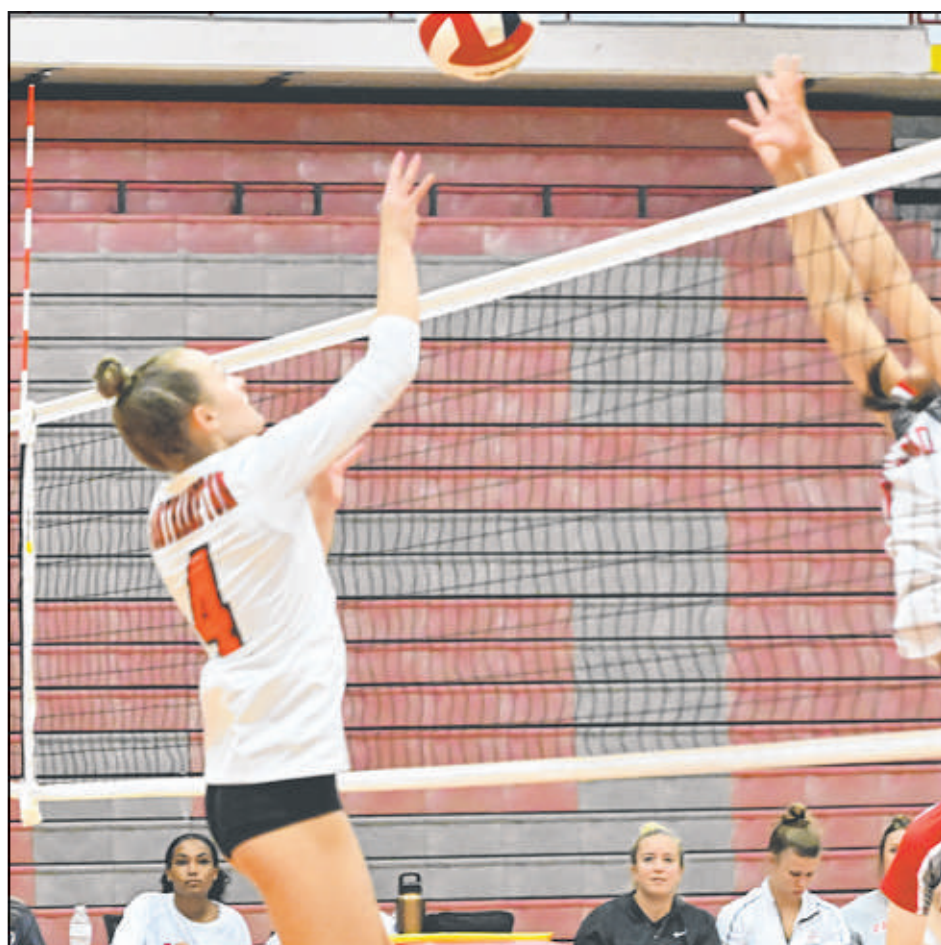
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## NORTHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL



Morgan Chandler is a returning senior co-captain.



Elizabeth Sheldon is also a returning senior co-captain.

# Volleyball team bringing back a ton of experience for this coming fall season

BY TOM WENBORG  
SPECIAL TO THE PRESS

The Northampton girls volleyball team returns the majority of their varsity experience from last season which should be a boon to a team looking to return to the postseason after posting a 7-11 record in the 2023 campaign.

The K-Kids' quest

will be bolstered by the return of Clare Erdman, who missed most of last season with an injury.

Erdman is one of the squad's tri-captains along with fellow seniors Morgan Chandler and Elizabeth Sheldon.

Addison Morgan, Quinn Micheli, and Alyx Cole are returning seniors with varsity experience.

Leah Everhart, Aubrey Layton, Emma Beil, and Isabella Pecuch represent the class of 2026. Claire Luckenbach and Averie Morgan are the sophomore members of the team.

Along with football, girls volleyball is the other fall sport that has been impacted by EPC realignment. The Kids

will move from the EPC West to the Northampton County division with Freedom, Liberty, Bethlehem Catholic, Nazareth, and Easton.

While the move allows Northampton to avoid playing powerhouses Parkland, Emmaus, and Central twice during the regular season, the new division is

arguably deeper with only Easton as a traditionally struggling program.

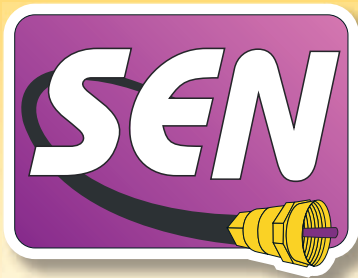
Head coach Mike Holihan assessed his team, "We're undersized. It was helpful to have Izzy (Pecuch) move up. She gives us a little height in the middle. They bought into defense. We won 3 of our 4 scrimmages and

we were competitive with Freedom."

"We're not going to be one of those teams that has one big hitter. It's going to have to be a group effort. We're playing scrappy and smart and I like what I've seen so far this preseason," he concluded.



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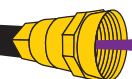
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