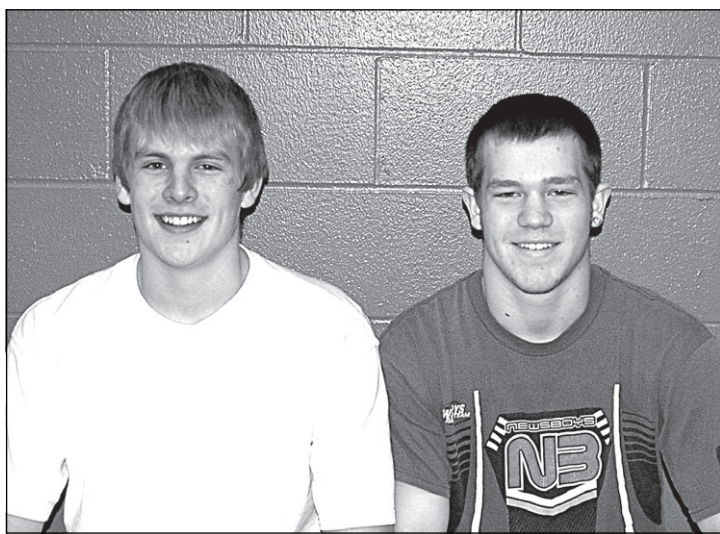


Moyer and Stave named to All-Conference team Ehrmantraut earns All-Section honors



Kory Stave and Colton Moyer earned All Conference honors for the Pirates. Stave also received the Coach's Award, while teammate Moyer earned the Pirate Award

by Coach Mike Mahlen

The Verndale 2011 football season officially came to an end with the fall sports banquet where season awards and honors voted on by fellow players and coaches were handed out.

Earning Pheasant All-Conference for 2011 were Colton Moyer and Kory Stave. Honorable Mention All-Conference went to Travis Lollar, Dallas Ehrmantraut and Andy Bounds. Also named to the All Section 4 team was Dallas Ehrmantraut.

Iron Man Awards were given to running back and wide receiver Dallas Ehrmantraut and tight end and lineman Alex Walsvik.

The Coaches Award was given to Kory Stave. Pirate Award winners were Colton Moyer and Travis Lollar.

Named as captains for the 2012 season were Dallas Ehrmantraut, Alex Walsvik and

Grant Grossinger.

The following team medals were also handed out:

QB Sacks: Kory Stave, 3
Fumble Recoveries: Andy Bounds, 2

Most Tackles: Andy Bounds, 111

Most Defensive Points: Andy Bounds, 90.5

Most Forced Fumbles: Allen Alberts, 2

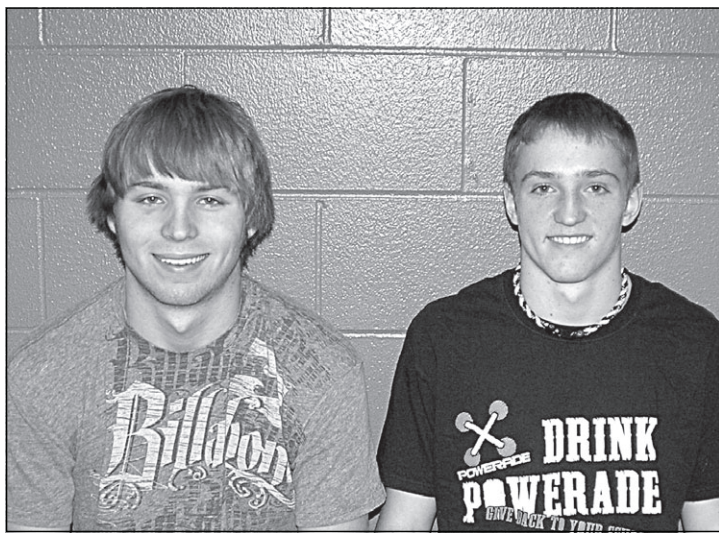
Passing Leader: Dillon Card, 87/130, 889 yards, 67%

Rushing Leader: Andy Bounds, 162 for 903 yds.

Receiving Leader: Dallas Ehrmantraut, 33 for 427 yds.

MVP Special Teams: Dallas Ehrmantraut

MVP Scout Team: Eric Blaha



Receiving Honorable Mention All Conference were Travis Lollar and Dallas Ehrmantraut. Ehrmantraut also got the nod on the All Section team for his play in the section quarterfinals, along with receiving the Iron Man Award for his work at the running back and wide receiver position. Lollar was the co-recipient of the Pirate Award. Not pictured, Andy Bounds, also earned Honorable Mention honors.

Pirates hope to improve upon last season's record

by Coach Jordan Hinkle

The Verndale Pirates boys basketball team looks to improve upon their five win season of last year with the return of key players Dallas Ehrmantraut, Aaron Denny, Travis Lollar and Josh Gilb.

Ehrmantraut, a junior, averaged 12.5 points and 4.5 assists per game last year, earning him All Conference honors.

Seniors, Denny and Lollar averaged 2.5 and 2 points, along with 3 and 4 rebounds per game.

Other varsity candidates include senior Christian Siedschlaw; juniors Ben Horstmann and DJ Blocker; sophomores Marcos Gomez and Daniel Fisher; and freshman James Kveton.

"We will have to replace some hard working seniors, but the boys have been working hard in the offseason and have bought into this program," commented Coach Hinkle.

The goals of this team are to work hard on and off the court

and to get better every day. It is important that we stay disciplined as student-athletes.

"With only one returning starter, we will be looking for production from a large age group. I think our ability to battle on the defensive end will help us improve as a team and keep us competitive," said Hinkle.

Bertha-Hewitt looks to be tough in the conference and Pillager has a good core group who have been putting in a lot of time in the gym. Sebeka lost some great players, but the young kids have gained valuable experience from them. Henning has some nice athletes and will always be fundamentally sound.

Upsala, Browerville, Eagle Valley and Bertha-Hewitt should be very tough in the Section.

We look forward to getting the year started on December 2 against a very tough Ashby Arrow team.

Sports Schedule

GIRLS BASKETBALL

December 1, AWAY
LaPorte, 7:30 p.m.
December 6, AWAY
Menahga, 7:30 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

December 2, AWAY
Ashby, 7:30 p.m.
December 5, AWAY
Parkers Prairie, 7:30 p.m.

WRESTLING

December 1, AWAY
Minnewaska
Triangular, 5 p.m.
December 3, AWAY
Wadena-Deer Creek
Invitational, 10 a.m.
December 6, HOME/
Raiders Triangular, 5 p.m.

A walk through history...

On a brisk Wednesday morning, Sam Schmitz's senior high Psychology class took a trip down Highway 210 to tour the former Fergus Falls Regional Treatment Center. This historic building was built in 1885 to serve as Minnesota's third mental hospital; the Fergus Falls State Hospital saw its first patients in 1887. The center routinely housed over 1,000 patients at a time.

The students were given a guided tour by two of the biggest proponents to save this historic building, Jean and Maxine Schmidt. Kraig Kenyon, a senior psychology student, especially enjoyed the "amazingly beautiful architecture and the old stories about what went on in the hospital."

The class was able to walk throughout and admire the architecture of the 1/3 of a mile long building and listen to a plethora of facts and stories about what it was like to be a patient.

The field trip was in correspondence with the class's abnormal psychology unit. Students were amazed at how



The Verndale psychology class toured the Fergus Falls State Hospital, enjoying its architecture and learning what it was like to be a patient.

—submitted photo

progressive this former state hospital was.

Senior psychology student, Kira Ollila found it "interesting how they were self-sustaining, in its early days," where many of the patients baked, farmed, did woodworking and played sports. She also was fascinated

by the brilliant architecture of the building.

Currently, the future of the building is unknown, but the psychology class is thankful for the opportunity and hopes the building will remain for future generations.

WDC School awarded FEMA funds for Storm Shelter Gym



FEMA representative for WDC Schools, Bruce Boyne, left, and WDC Superintendent Dahlstrom worked with FEMA on securing the federal grant needed to help fund the Storm Shelter Gym.

—submitted photo

Wadena-Deer Creek Public School learned they were successful in securing a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help fund a Storm Shelter/Safe Room Gymnasium.

WDC will receive \$950,000 in FEMA funding for the Safe Room construction. The Safe Room will be 6,500 square feet and will be attached to the north side of the gymnasium at the new middle/high school.

The facility will be constructed according to FEMA guidelines, which requires the Safe Room to be designed to withstand winds up to 275 mph. The facility will be a multi-use facility serving as an additional gymnasium at the new school, which will be used by the students and community for physical education, athletic events and commu-

nity events.

FEMA is assisting WDC in its recovery from the June 17, 2010 tornado. Bruce Boyne is the school's FEMA representative. He has helped WDC secure FEMA funds for the new middle/high school and now the Safe Room. Boyne explained it was William Hirte, who is the FEMA Public Assistance Officer, who suggested WDC apply for a Federal grant to provide a Safe Room for students and staff at the new middle/high school.

The application process started with FEMA in January 2011. Boyne said the hazard mitigation safe room application process is very thorough. He spent hours researching and compiling data. He said FEMA reviews information on cost of the Safe Room, populations to be served by the proposed Safe Room, a complete

study of the Safe Room location, and then uses the data Boyne provided to determine if the Safe Room project is feasible and cost-effective.

If and when a weather-related event occurs and the Wadena County Dispatcher's Office sounds the warning sirens, dispatchers will be able to unlock and turn on the Safe Room interior and exterior lighting electronically from the Dispatcher's Office.

"This will enable the Safe Room to be a Safe Room not only for students and staff present at the school, but also make it a community safe room available should a severe weather event occur day or night, year-round," said Boyne.

Plans are to have law enforcement and school staff report to the Safe Room when it is opened electronically to assure proper procedures are followed at the Safe Room. Once the Safe Room is completed and operational, the community will be provided additional information on the Safe Room procedures.

"Should the Safe Room ever be needed to provide shelter to students, staff and community members, the value will immediately become apparent," said Boyne. "The advantage of a multi-purpose structure really makes the Safe Room a valuable addition to the entire community even though it may never be used to save lives. There is also comfort knowing it is there."

Plans are to begin construction early in the spring of 2012 with a completion date of August 2012.