

## Hawley And LP-A Combine Track Efforts To Become The UC-B Badgers For Track

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Sports Writer



The Hawley track department is changing things up this season by combining efforts with Lake Park-Audubon. In seasons past, the Nuggets have joined with Ulen-Hitterdal but for the 2018 season, are combining with LP-A to become the UC-B Badgers.

This is not a new collaboration for the schools, as they team up during the winter for wrestling.

With a combination of teams, there will also be a combination of coaches. Head coaches for the Badgers will be lead by the trio of Peder Naatz, Jon Hinrichs and Laura Januszewski.

Naatz is a familiar face in the coaching game. He is the head coach of the Hawley Nuggets football team and is back for his 23rd year leading the boys in track and field.

Naatz is excited about his numbers of male athletes this year. "We have great numbers and look to be a factor in all meets. The outlook is positive but there are many unknowns with this being the first year of the new co-op," commented Naatz.

The biggest asset for the Badger boys? Large number of participants and distance events according to Coach Naatz.

Team captains have not been chosen yet, but the seniors are always looked toward to help their teammates when they can.

Team goal for the new team? "We want to challenge for the True Team Section Championship and advance as many kids of the state meet as possible," stated Naatz.

Naatz stated the team lost six boys to graduation in 2017. "We are hoping that our incoming seniors will take over and fill those spots. If not with the actual performances, then with leadership qualities."

Of those lost to graduation was Zach Ellingson. He was a state participants in the shot put and discus.

Also making an appearance at state was Parker Tjaden in the 800m and Jacob Vetter in the 400m.

Naatz will be in charge of the 100m, 110m and 300m hurdles.

Boys on the Badger roster include Seniors - Austin Osland, Bailey Ranstrom, Donnie Loegering, Ethan Highness, Jonathan Teigen, Parker Tjaden, Tyler Todd and Sam Harrison;

Juniors - Alex Strehlow, Bailey Johnson, Brendon Flores, Caleb Dyrud, Chase Libak, David Flaten, Hunter Magnusson, Jacob Vetter, Nick Donovan, Noah Glad, Patrick Hofstrand, and Will Hannelson;

Sophomores - Blake Tuckner, Cody Wolbeck, Isaac Ames, Jacob Beaudine-Schlick, Jeremiah Nies, Justin Bentley, Keenan Syverson, Logan Reiland, Masyn Johnson, Matt Thompson, Patrick Hofstrand and Shawn Skjold;

Freshmen - Ben Olson, Cole Sunde, Elijah Fitzpatrick, Garrett Cossette, John Jacobson, Landen Bahls, Liam O'Connell, Micah Seaboy, Nicholas Groth, Riley Carlson, Shane Todd, Zakary Perala and Zeb Lewis;

Eighth graders - Brett Daggett, Caidin Larson, Caleb Dyrud, Dylan Klages, Ethan Anderson, Hayden Groeneweg,

Seventh graders - Ari Larson, Benjamin Geeslin, Bradley Olson, Derek Tibbetts, Esben O'Connell, Ethan Langseth, John Vetter, Kamron Smith, Steven Sellin,



The United Clay Becker Badgers boys track team members are, left to right, front row-Shawn Skjold, Michael Seaboy, Masyn Johnson, Isaac Ames, Garrett Cossette, Riley Carlson, Taylor Johnson, Zak Perala, Elijah Fitzpatrick; middle row-Jacob Beaudine Schlick, John Jacobson, Shane Todd, Cody Wolbeck, Tyler Todd, Bailey Ranstrom, David Flaten, Zeb Lewis, Cole Sunde; back row-Austin Osland, Bailey Johnson, Logan Reiland, Alex Strehlow, Matt Thompson, Sam Harrison, Justin Bentley, Jonathan Teigen and Will Hannelson.



The United Clay Becker Badgers girls track team members are, left to right, front row-Katie Todd, MacKenzie Ehlers, Victoria Peterson, Whitney Isaacson, Rylie Olson; row two-Bailey Halland, Izzy Olson, Siri Danielson, McKenzie Koenig, Maizey Gilbert, Aliza Hochhalter, Ella Mangel, Mia Tickle; row three-Chloe Leno, Shayla Hendricks, Rachel Grande, Nicole Bentley, Brienne Huesman, Faith Rustad, Mia Gehrig, Hailey Frohman; back row-Abby Richard, Kaitlyn Rux, Paige Thompson, Jenna Gehrig, Lily Peterson, Caroline Grande and Maria Vetter.

Taylor Johnson, Tyler Hogenson and William Gunning.

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Helping out on the girls team are veterans coach Jon Hinrichs and Laura Januszewski.

Hinrichs is on his 13th year of coaching track and field. He was the girls track coach for the Nuggets in 2017.

Because of the co-op, there are lots of uncertainties to start out the season. But Hinrichs is positive that once the girls can get outside and get practicing in a real track and field setting, great things will start to happen.

"Our team goal this year is to

develop into a well rounded and competitive squad. We are very excited about the numbers in both the boys and girls track program. We feel that joining Lake Park-Audubon with Hawley should give us a very well rounded team."

Hinrichs continued, "we look forward not only to utilizing the coaches talents for various events, but developing the competition within the team that will allow for some very good relay teams. We feel that the talent level in both schools compliment each other. We look forward to seeing how we progress this year and how our athletes develop."

Because of the "newness" of the team and not fully knowing all the athletes, like the boys, no captains have been chosen yet.

"Due to the co-op this year we are still trying to get to know the kids and find out what their strengths and weaknesses are. Once the competition begins, we should be able to see the definite roles the

athletes will fill."

Athletes to watch for are section qualifier Lilly Peterson; Taytum Nelson, Izzy Olson and the 4x800m team who own the section comprised of Garrett Cossette, Will Hannelson, Bailey Johnson and Nick Donovan. Johnson was also a section qualifier in the 800m.

Hinrichs will coach the shot put and discus.

Co-Head Coach Laura Januszewski the 800m, 1600m, 3200m and the 4x800m.

"Combining teams has been an upside for all the athletes. I love the specialized coaches. It allows me to focus on just the distance kids for workout preparation," commented Januszewski.

The coaches will be assisted by Aaron Haugen who will be in charge of the sprints, long jump, triple jump and high jump; and Kailee Martinson who will be the coach for sprints, 4x100m, 4x200m and 4x400m.

"We are all very excited about the team we have this year. This is

the most number of athletes that we have ever had to work with and we feel that will be a strength for us," stated Hinrichs.

"Even though the weather has not cooperated, we certainly look forward to seeing what our kids can do. The squad has a nice blend of upper classmen with string numbers in the freshmen and sophomore classes. This should give us a great base to build upon," concluded Januszewski.

Girls on the UC-B Badger roster are:

Maizey Gilbert,, Nicole Bentley, Victoria Peterson, Katie Boucher, Bailey Halland, Rachel Grande, Brienne Huesman;

Juniors - Victoria Branden, Whitney Isaacson, MacKenzie Ehlers, Shayla Hendricks, Chloe Leno;

Sophomores - McKenzie Keonig, Aliza Hochhalter, Siri Danielson, Alisha Robertson, Paige Thompson, Halle Berg, Mia Gehrig, Sydney Porter, Hailey Frohman, Payton

Braseth;

Freshmen - Reagan Sellin, Jaden Schenck, Kaitlyn Rux, Rylie Olson, Ella Mangel, Mia Tickle, Maria Vetter, Kaitlyn Todd, Jenna Gehrig, Abigail Richards, Angelique Gonzales, Caroline Grande, Rayne Nguyen;

Eighth grade - Faith Rustad, Lily Peterson, Izzy Olson;

Seventh grade - Thea Matson and Taytum Nelson.



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