

# Honored to Support the NUGGETS!

BOYS BASKETBALL | GIRLS BASKETBALL | WRESTLING

**VALLEY PREMIER**  
BANK

Hawley (218) 483-3361 | Moorhead (218) 233-2544

valleypremierbank.com | Member FDIC | Equal Housing Lender



**Go  
Nuggets!**

**Premium Ag Solutions**

**218 238-5555**

**Precision  
Planting®**

**Lake Park Insurance Agency, Inc.**

"Your Full Service Agency"

\*Second Street • PO Box 22 • Lake Park, MN • 218.238.5974 • Fax 218.238.5976

**Go Nuggets!**

**888-232-7166**

Toll Free

Debra L. Nelson  
Agent/Manager  
Lic. # 43687

Jane M. Mattson  
Insurance Agent  
Lic. # 20295735

Paulette A. Opatriel  
Insurance Agent  
Lic. # 20325900

• Auto • Home • Annuities • Farm • Business • Health • Life  
• Motorcycles • Trucks • Hail • Seasonal Property • RV's

**First Hawley  
Agency**

Licensed Agent **Mark Wagner**  
1018 Hobart St. • Hawley, MN 56549

Ph. (218) 483-3526  
firsthawleyagency@arvig.net

Inside **Bell Bank** off Highway 10

Life • Health • Home • Auto • Commercial • Crop • Farm • Flood

Stop in or call for a quote!

**GRINNELL**  
MUTUAL

## Nuggets Ready To Bring It To The Court Every Game

**Marc Ness**  
Sports Writer

I can't remember the correct analogy. Don't bring grapes to a watermelon fight? No. Don't bring Legos to a water balloon fight? Nope, not that one either. Oh I remember, don't bring a ball of yarn to a pheasant hunt. I think that was close.

Well, the Nuggets will be "bringing it" every night. This team is as loaded as I have seen in my 25 years in Hawley. You can talk about the Cox teams, the Harms teams and even the Martodam teams. Sure, those were awesome teams, but this Nugget Boys basketball team might have them beat, when you look at the squad from top to bottom.

This team is led by a seven-headed-senior dragon. Noah Glad, Jayden Carlisle, Chase Libak, Gunnar Lawson, Jacob Vetter, Mason Klevgaard and Karter Kopacek. These seven have a chance to take the Nuggets deep into the playoffs this year. Maybe a trip to the Twin Cities? Well, let's not get too crazy yet, but the team is oozing with possibilities.

Noah averaged 16.1 points per game and collected 7.5 boards per game. That is a great stat line but the most telling stat might be that he shot 58 percent from the field for the All-HOL player. Noah earned All HOL honors last season and there may be even more to come for Noah.

"There aren't many athletes that have come as far as Noah," coach Nathan Stoa said. "Noah did not show his true talent early in basketball but kept working at it and has now developed into a force."

Jayden (All-HOL) is also an excellent shooter and shot a whopping 57 percent from the floor. He also averaged 15 points per game, 3.6 assists, 4.0 steals and 6.8 deflections per game. Saying that Jayden likes basketball is like saying snow is white. He really loves basketball and is a true "gym rat" according to coach Stoa.

"No player in our program has invested more time into the game of basketball. And it has paid off for him. He had a great junior season and it will be fun to see what strides he takes as a senior."

Chase (All-HOL) is a shut-down defender that spends a lot of time on the defensive end. He can also score



The Hawley Nuggets boys basketball varsity team members are, left to right, front row-Karter Kopacek, Mason Klevgaard, Gunnar Lawson, Jacob Vetter, Jayden Carlisle, Chase Libak, Noah Glad; back row-Manager Jack Ford, Brady Gratton, Cade Carley, George Pasche, Blake Manthe, Hayden Grani, Justin Koski, and Manager Gunnar Carley.

when he is needed to score. Last year, he averaged 6 points per game and added 3.7 assists per game, so expect even better numbers this year.

"Chase's greatest asset is his competitive fire and desire to meet unattainable perfection," Stoa said. "His teammates know that Chase is always willing to defend another team's top player, be the first to a loose ball, take a charge, or make the extra pass. It is those reasons why Chase is so instrumental to what we are trying to accomplish within our program," Stoa said.

Jacob will rejoin the team after sitting out all season with a major knee injury. Jake really started to blossom as a basketball player as a sophomore. He played extremely hard at both ends and had a nice soft touch near the basket. It will be fun to see Jake back on the floor and 14 PPG and 8 RPG are very attainable.

Mason and Karter do whatever they are asked. They step up when they are asked to. Mason can shoot the lights out and will be a good

source of 3-pointers for the Nuggets. A pitcher in baseball, Mason is always calm, cool and collected, and that is always seen on the court as well. Karter makes the most of every opportunity. He can play almost any position and he can also knock down some threes. His quickness on the defensive end gives teams an upset stomach.

Hawley freshman Hayden Grani will also see some time on the floor this year to get his varsity feet wet. His multi-sport future is very bright.

Best managers in the HOL are seniors Jack Ford and Gunnar Carley. Additional varsity players this season are George Pasche, Cade Carley Justin Koski, Blake Manthe and Brady Gratton.

The JV team this year will be Billy Renner, Cole Sunde, Zak Perala, Alex Bratsch, Matthew Nelson and Gavin Klevgaard.

The C-team (freshman) are Bailey Thomson, Sam Burkel, Carson Brew, Evan Peterson, Teague Spillum, Bryant Carlisle, Gavin

Rodke and Turner Harrison.

Coach Stoa was asked about the outlook this year, "Due to the loss of two-year letter winner Jacob Vetter to a knee injury sustained in the section football championship, we had to shuffle our plans heading into the '17-18 season. The loss of Vetter moved everything around on both ends of the floor, but also gave guys a chance to step up and into different roles. The season was not a completely smooth ride, but the squad was able to compete with nearly everyone on our very difficult schedule."

"There will be an acclimation process, but getting Vetter back with returning Heart O'Lakes All-Stars Jayden Carlisle, Noah Glad, Chase Libak, and Gunnar Lawson should

give our team and our program's stockholders plenty of optimism heading into the '18-19 season.

"The team will need to focus on defending from tip to buzzer, along with a renewed focus on the defensive boards. Offensively, the team will need to replace the production of the departing seniors. Vetter, along with fellow seniors Mason Klevgaard, Karter Kopacek, and freshman Hayden Grani have a

great chance to do that and more."

Some of the better teams this year include Perham and Breckenridge, but Hawley will be in the mix as well. This will be a fun and exciting year of hoops in Hawley. In the HOL, on any given night any team can beat any other team. If this group wants it more than everyone else, look out HOL, here come the Golden Nuggets!

**Go  
Nuggets!**



**Good Luck, Nuggets!**  
...and all other area sports teams.

**RAPAT**  
CORPORATION

Rapat Corporation • 919 O'Donnell St. • Hawley, MN 56549 USA  
Toll Free (800) 325-6377 • (218) 483-3344 • Fax (218) 483-3535  
www.rapat.com • Email: info@rapat.com



**PETRO SERVE**  
**USA**



*Filling your propane & fuel needs*

(218)233-2497  
Barnesville

(218)486-7380  
Hawley

(218)596-4427  
Ulen

*Proud to serve the Clay County area!*