



Lindberg MOTORS
 COMPLETE AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR
 218-867-2355
 112 1ST STREET SW • ROTHSAY, MN

Good Luck, Tigers!





OSCAR/PARKE MUTUAL
 INSURANCE CO

Contact us for a local agent in your area on your home, farm or seasonal.

Phone: 218 867-2440



Light Speed ELECTRIC, LLC
 OFFICE: (218) 867-2222

• Full Service Electrical Contractor • Licensed, Bonded and Insured • Locally Owned • Credit Cards Accepted
 125 Center St S • Rothsay
 Office: 218 867-2222

Strong Talent And Experience Lead Tiger Boys Track

By Kelsey Buchholz
 Entering her second season as head coach, Nikki Thorson is optimistic about the direction of the Rothsay boys track and field program, citing a strong mix of leadership, experience, and emerging young talent.

Leading the way are senior captains Karson Jensen and Dawson Leabo, who bring talent, experience, prior success, and leadership to the roster. Jensen returns after competing at the state meet in the long jump in 2025. Both Jensen and Leabo had strong showings in the conference sprint events. Regardless of placing results, their presence sets the tone for the team both in practice and competition because of their leadership and strong work ethic.

Coach Thorson said, "Karson and Dawson have consistently demonstrated the qualities we value in our program. They bring a strong work ethic, a positive attitude, and a commitment to supporting their teammates."

Leabo had a strong showing to open the season at the indoor meet in Concordia, as he finished fourth overall in the 55-meter dash out of the 63 competitors and sixth out of 33 in the long jump. Leabo was one of nine Tiger athletes to compete in the indoor competition. Coach Thorson said, "Overall, I was pleased with the effort and competitiveness we showed in our first meet. It's a great starting point, and I'm excited to see how these athletes continue to develop and progress as the season unfolds."

The Tigers return a solid core



The Tigers track team members are, left to right, front row-Abbie Klee, Emma Froslic, Alea Klossner, Emersyn Wahl, Brooklyn Thompson, Libby Larson, Khloe Wilkinson, Emma Klossner, Kenzie Jensen; middle row-Silas Boots, Casey Opsahl, Elizabeth Bakken, McKenzie Kohler, Macie Kohler, Violet Cadmus, Kody Leininger, Hunter Berneking; back row-Coach Nikki Thorson, Karson Jensen, James Stockinger, Cory Opsahl, Loken Brandt, Wyatt Irish, Carter Davenport, Dawson Leabo, and Coach Jennie Miller.

across multiple disciplines. In addition to Jensen and Leabo, seniors will provide experience in field events such as long jump and sprinting, while juniors Cory Opsahl (800 meters, discus), Carter Davenport (shot put, discus), and Wyatt Irish (shot put, discus)

add depth, especially in the field. Sophomore Kody Leininger (800m, 1600m) and eighth grader Casey Opsahl (100m, shot put) round out some of the strong experience but also represent a younger group of athletes expected to contribute.

Although it is early in the season,

several athletes have already shown solid form, almost mirroring mid-season looks, adding to the optimism and possibilities for the Tiger track team. Leabo has impressed in sprint events; Jensen continues to shine in both sprints and the long jump, and throwers Loken Brandt and Wyatt Irish have shown strong potential as noted by Coach Thorson.

Coach Thorson added that several younger athletes have made an immediate impression with skill and a willingness to improve. And

there may be some more strength coming to the field disciplines with a new senior who has emerged as a pleasant surprise and could make significant strides this season.

The Tigers' goals remain focused on steady improvement and postseason success. "As a program, our goal is to show consistent improvement at every meet," Thorson said. "We also aim to have multiple athletes qualify for the state meet." And while that is completely

feasible, the Tigers do have to deal with some training challenges, including the need to travel for some practices to prepare with proper equipment. While the school is working to raise the necessary funds for facility improvements, the Tigers' creativity and excitement for the season have not ebbed at all.

The Rothsay track and field coaches and athletes are motivated and focused on building a successful season.

Lady Tigers Spring Into Track With High Hopes

By Kelsey Buchholz
 The Rothsay girls' track and field team enters the 2026 season with a youthful roster, growing depth, strong talent, and an eagerness to perform and compete.

The Tigers are led by second-year head coach Nikki Thorson. And with assistant coach Jennie Miller in her fifth year, the program continues to build consistency while continuing to develop a strong pipeline of athletes.

The Tigers return a core group led by junior Khloe Wilkinson, who specializes in the sprints. Wilkinson competes in the 100 and 200-meter dashes and is a key member of the 4x100 relay team. She has stood out early this season not only as an experienced leader but also as one of the team's top runners. Fellow junior Emma Klossner anchors the

throwing events in shot put and discus and is expected to be a major contributor.

The roster also features a strong group of underclassmen, particularly in sprint and relay events. Sophomore Elizabeth Bakken and freshmen Kenzie Jensen, Macie Kohler, and Violet Cadmus all bring speed to the 4x100 relay lineup.

Individually, Jensen had a strong showing at the first indoor meet of the season at Concordia, excelling in the quick dash (55 meters) and finishing 15th out of 83 athletes. Coach Thorson was encouraged not just by Jensen's efforts, but by all nine Rothsay track and field athletes who attended. Their competitive performances and ability to hold their own against top competition this early in the season show the potential to develop further and

make some notable marks as the season progresses.

Additionally, for the Tiger team as a whole, eighth-graders Emersyn Wahl and Brooklyn Thompson add young talent and versatility in sprint events, while Thompson and Alea Klossner flex their skills in the field events, honing form and maximizing potential.

Like the boys' team, the girls' squad is focused on steady growth throughout the season. "Our goal is to show consistent improvement at every meet and continue to raise our team scores," Thorson said. The Tigers have bought into this goal as well, as Coach Thorson has noted, "There is a strong sense of focus and motivation across the team, and we are looking forward to a successful and rewarding season."



Good Luck Tiger Track Teams On Your Season!

Larry's SUPERMARKET PELICAN RAPIDS
 South Side Of Town
 On Highway 59
 218 863-5750

Locally owned since 1977

Deli • fresh meat • ProDUce
 Bakery • Grocery



HOURS:
 SUNDAY
 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 MONDAY - SATURDAY
 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.



keeping you connected





to the things that matter most.



218.998.2000
 www.parkregion.com
 BEYOND THE CONNECTION