

Bret Fredrick Westby



By Sydney Thom

In track, the distance is fixed, but the effort is infinite. Bret Westby learned early on that the finish line doesn't move toward you; you have to hunt it down. Whether it's the final lap of a mile or the final months of his senior year, his story is defined by the grit it takes to find a second wind when everyone else is slowing down.

Bret was born on April 18, 2008. He is the son of Willaim Westby and Michelle Peterson, and has an older sister, Adia. Throughout his life, Bret has been influenced by those around him, especially Gunnar Vesledahl. Gunnar served as a role model because anything Bret participated in, Gunnar did as well, which pushed him to improve and compare himself in a positive way.

Bret is involved in a wide range of activities, including cross country, track, knowledge bowl, speech (extemporaneous speaking, FFA, and D&D. Through these activities, he has built strong connections and pushed himself to grow. One of his most memorable moments was traveling to Nationals in FFA from October to November of 2025, being an unforgettable moment because he got to meet people from different states in the U.S. and experience how their views are different from his own.

After graduation, Bret plans on attending the University of North Dakota to pursue a career in physical therapy, which will require approximately six to seven years of education. He is also considering joining cross country in college and hopes to meet new people, even

if he feels "forced to make new friends" at first.

Bret's favorite class is chemistry with Mr. Berntson, who is also his favorite teacher. He enjoys the class not only because of the engaging labs, but also because of the positive and thrilling environment. He appreciates how Mr. Berntson shows care and compassion, making the class enjoyable beyond just the subject itself.

In life, Bret hopes to have a family, be happy, and become a role model for his future children. With his resilient spirit and ability to find the upside in any situation, he is already well on his way to achieving that. His advice to underclassmen is simple: "Try everything. Try to find your purpose."

Although he is ready for the future, Bret knows he will miss many aspects of high school, especially his friends, the memories he has made, and activities like knowledge bowl. Being involved in different activities allowed him to meet new communities and form lasting connections with people who have made a strong impact on his life.

Through his time at Fosston High School, Bret has remained active, involved, and open to new experiences. As he looks ahead to college and beyond, he carries with him the lessons, memories, and relationships that have shaped who he is today.

Jake Alex Wickham



By Jakob Manteufel

Jake Alex Wickham was born on February 26, 2008, in Fosston, Minnesota. Jake loves his family, which includes his father, Matt; mother, Chantel; and sister, Tia, along with all his grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Snowmobiling, dirt biking, hunting, fishing, and everything you could think of that involves the outdoors interests Jake. He is an avid outdoorsman with a lot of work experience in areas such as well drilling, farming, snowplowing, construction, and ranching, where he has gained many valuable skills.

Even though there have been many ups and downs during his school career, he will never forget being life-flighted to a hospital in Fargo. Jake also says his most embarrassing moment was having to use a wheelchair for about three months. He took advantage of this and learned how to do tricks like wheelies and spins. Something he and his classmates will miss is being able to talk to all his buddies at once multiple days a week.

A quick quote from Jake is, "You can't fix stupid." Jake has participated in high school sports and activities for most of his life. He played football up until his junior year, basketball for a couple of years, and has stuck with baseball throughout his high school career. Jake has also participated in FFA and made it to the state convention three times, which is a great accomplishment.

Jake plans to work on the paving crew for Zavoral's company once high school ends. This is very exciting, and it will be interesting to see where this takes him. Jake chose this path because he has multiple connections in this area and would like to work with them, learn new things, and earn money.

Brennen William Zahnow



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