



CARDINAL FLYER

Hayes Center High School Journalism

Thursday, September 24, 2026

MHC FOOTBALL, STARTING FRESH

BY AVA MESSERSMITH

As the new season begins this year, the MHC football team is looking for a fresh start. With a change in the coaching staff, the team is looking to improve from their 1-7 record from last season. As a first-year head coach, Thad Rathjen has been looking forward to the start of the season. When asked to describe his players on the football team, he stated, "This year's team is very exciting. As a coach, I really do not know what I'm going to get. Whether it be endless energy in our team drills, or just a player showing up extremely energized and grateful to be practicing and to be given another day where they get to be a part of a great group of guys and play football." To prepare this summer, the Wolves traveled to many football camps including one at Concordia University and also hosted a team camp at home. With four games played, the team has 2 wins under their belt. Showing not only improvement in their overall record, key returning players as well as new contributing



Photo by Lanie Soundy
Senior lineman Cooper Soundy stops the Loomis ball carrier in his tracks in MHC's game at Loomis on Friday, September 18th.

players for the Wolves have demonstrated improvement in their skill and talent.

Key veteran players so far this year include seniors Kade Broz at running back, and Cooper Soundy on the offensive and defensive line. Younger players to watch for are Quaid Brott at quarterback as well as Bently Broz and Juan Hernandez on defense. Fans should also expect an overall positive attitude from within the team. "Something I think our fans should watch for from the team this season is a much more energetic and excited team," said Coach Rathjen. "Our defense has really bought into what we want them to do and our offense is very excited to be running something new that is fit for the team we have."

With five games left in the season, the Wolves have plenty of games to play. As they continue to learn, and work together, MHC looks to turn the new plays and strategies into success on the field. Come out and cheer for the team which will be back in action for the homecoming game against Perkins County on Friday, September 25th in Hayes Center.



Photo by Lanie Soundy
Defensive back Bentley Broz intercepts the ball to keep Wauneta-Palisade from scoring during MHC's 8-6 home victory against the Broncos on Friday, September 11th.



Photos of the Week



Photo by Lanie Soundy

(Back l-r) Preslie Broz, Mya Broz, Hayley Richards, Bristol Cox, Chloe Jeffers, (front) Peyton Kotter, and Ayleen Hernandez smile for the camera before cheering the Wolves football team on against Loomis.



Photo by Monica Dimas

Karolina and Elena Gallegos wait for the next race to start at MHC's home cross country meet in Hayes Center.



Photo by Harli Cox

Jordyn Lacey (8th), Kallen Unger (7th), and Briar Cox (7th) practice marching and playing their instruments for the upcoming homecoming parade.



Photo by Harli Cox

Freshman June Messersmith builds a sleigh for the one-act production set.

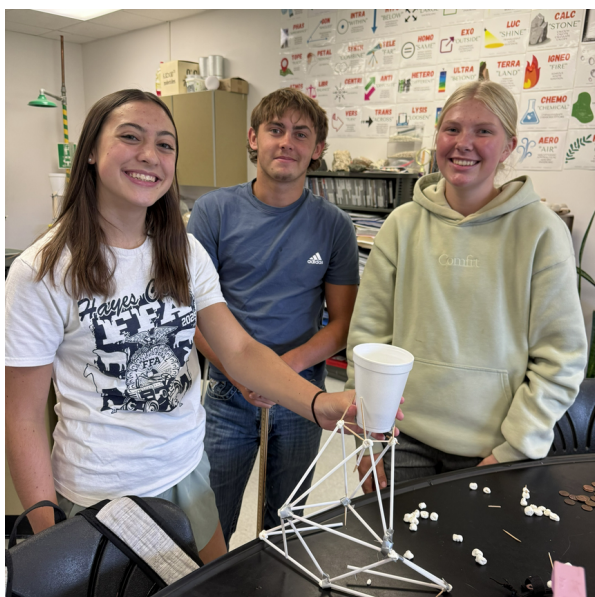


Photo by Marguerite Gallegos

Chloe Jeffers, Bentley Broz, and Lanie Soundy test the water they constructed in science class.



Photo by Harli Cox

Mya Broz (8th) prepares to receive a serve during the volleyball game against Wauneta-Palisade on Thursday, September 17th.



SPORTS SCORES

Varsity Football @Loomis, Friday, Sep.18

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Loomis (4-0)	22	28	8	8	66
MHC (2-2)	0	0	0	12	12

JaColby Landry: 2 touchdowns

Varsity Volleyball vs.Wauneta-Palisade @HC, Thur., Sep.17

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Set 5
Wa-Pa (11-1)	25	19	25	20	15
MHC (6-3)	23	25	18	25	10

Varsity Volleyball vs. Decatur Co. @McCook, Saturday, Sep.19

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
Decatur Co. (9-4)	25	23	17
MHC (7-3)	22	25	25

Varsity Volleyball vs. McCook @McCook, Saturday, Sep.19

	Set 1	Set 2
McCook (8-3)	25	25
MHC (7-4)	23	21

Varsity Volleyball vs. Valentine @McCook, Saturday, Sep.19

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
Valentine (6-4)	26	23	23
MHC (8-4)	24	25	25

Var. VB vs. Arthur Co, @Maywood, Tues., Sep.22

	Set 1	Set 2
Arthur Co. (3-7)	14	7
MHC (8-4)	25	25

Var. VB vs. Hi-Line @Maywood, Tues., Sep.22

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
Hi-Line (9-7)	23	28	23
MHC (9-4)	25	26	25

Cross Country

@Arapahoe

Thur., Sep.17

Girls

Individual

Agneshka Sankey (5th)
22:33.17

Ava Messersmith (37th)
34:52.92

Briana Vapenik (40th)
36:24.63

Boys

Individual

Rubiel Lopez (13th)
21:12.21

Aaron Lawson (24th)
23:02.66

Steven Werkmeister (36th)
25:00.58



Photo by Monica Dimas

The cross country team celebrated the senior runners (Steven Werkmeister, Clayton Mahanes, Rubiel Lopez, Ayleen Hernandez) and their parents at the MHC Invitational Meet on Wednesday, September 23rd in Hayes Center.