

story and photos by: O&B staff

Volleyball

GJHS volleyball set off the season with head coach Jeniel

Eilers leading an all-new coaching staff. The assistant coaches are Kayla Stack, Kaycie Makimoto, and Ian Leui.

The Tiger varsity team features 17 girls, with six seniors.

“I want to have good leadership skills and be a positive teammate to all the other girls,” said GJHS senior Olivia Kimmel. Leadership and teamwork has been a big focus in building the team with the new coaches this year. The top players this season are senior Averi Wagner for kills and blocks, and junior Anara Munkhtogoo for assists.

Pictured on the right Tiger volleyball celebrates after a block in a varsity game against Central High School.



Cross Country

Max Robinson is the new head coach for cross country at GJHS.

“I think everyone on the team would tell you the goal for this season is to have GJ runners represent our school at the state meet,” Robinson said. “You can qualify for the state meet at regionals as a team or as individual(s). We are capable of qualifying runners on both the boys and girls side.”

The top runners for the Tigers are seniors Tyson Lefebre and Albert Booth, juniors Connor Kinser and Bryce Flannagan and freshmen Bailey Pommarane, Maggie Silzell and Sarah Richards. Robinson said GJHS has not had an individual at the state meet since 2020 and hasn't had a team qualify since 2012.

Softball

The GJHS softball team slides into the '23 season. Key players are Jaxon Clark, Lindsey Cooley, Kiah Tompson, and Kaylie Kellerby. Jaxon Clark has a batting average of 0.571.

Lindsey Cooley has an on base percentage of 0.604. “I think compared to sophomore and freshman year, us working together as a team is just all coming together and allowing us

to win more games,” said Lindsey Cooley.

The Tigers beat Palisade 15-5 at Palisade High School.

Pictured to the right is GJHS junior Maycie Sinicki up to bat.



Football

The Tigers football team won their very own homecoming game.

They won the game 28 to 7 against Mountain Range. Some of the key players this year consist of junior Will Applegate, junior Aiden Boss, and sophomore Drew Marsh. Marsh has received 51 yards per game. Applegate has 57.5 of Rushing Yards per game. The head coach this year is the same as last year Landon Mckee, who has been coaching the Tigers for the last 4 years. “It's definitely a lot better. We can grow a lot with a lot of juniors on varsity.” Aiden Boss junior Football player for Grand Junction High School.



S P O R T S

Fall sports kick off the 23 season



Boys Tennis

The Boys tennis team won the Southwest League championship.

The top boys for singles are freshman Nikolas Miller, senior Evan Sever, and freshman Peter Phillips. The top doubles are senior Isaac Boyer and senior Jameson Boyer, and junior Nick Silzel and freshman Jack Welling.

“The season is going really well but we are a pretty young team so we will be a lot stronger in the years to come,” Jameson Boyer said. Pictured to the left is Nick Silzel and freshman Jack Welling, doubles partners low fiving.

Soccer

Head coach Jonathan Pando leads the GJHS boys soccer team. A highlight of the season so far was a 5-4 comeback victory against Durango.

Sophomore Luis Mendez is the top scorer for the Tigers. Some key players for GJHS are junior Dutch Bullock, sophomore Angel Perez leon, and junior Edison Dean.

Golf

The golf season has been outstanding for the Tigers with the team placing first in seven out of the 11 events they have played.

“Our goal is to win in every tournament we play in,” said 23-year GJHS boys golf coach Thomas Lefebre. “To always improve at every tournament.”

Grand Junction’s varsity foursome of junior Ky Korte, sophomore Hunter Simmons, senior Maddox Lovato and junior Jack Kaul combined to lead the team to the regional tournament championship Wednesday, Sept. 20, at Bookcliff Country Club. Korte and Lovato led the team at regionals with scores of 77 and Kaul was one shot back at 78.

The Tigers had a team score of 232 to win regionals by six strokes and qualified as a team for the Class 4A state tournament held Oct. 2-3 in Montrose. Pictured above junior Ky Korte driving during regionals held at the bookcliff country club.



Cheer

Cheer helps support the GJHS sports and keep everyone involved in the student section. Outside of supporting the sports they also compete in cheer competitions. Grand Junction high school junior Taylor Armstrong said, “Since I’ve been on the team we’ve been first place in the 4A all girl division. Two years ago we placed 8th out of about 27 teams in state. Last year we made history by placing 3rd out of 27 teams and making it to finals for the first time.” Cheer regionals are Nov. 18 and the state competition is Dec. 2. The Tigers are coached by Teaa Warinner.

