



# Blue & White

A Weekly Production from the MHS Journalism Class

P.O. Box 580-Montezuma, IA 50171- www.montezuma-schools.org/BlueWhite.aspx

## “Brave the Journey:” Braves Wrestling Update

By Carrie Jennings

The Montezuma wrestling season, having started in November of last year, is inching to a close this month.

The boys have only two more meets left for the season, one on January 18th at HLV and the last on January 23rd at EV. The season started off with nine wrestlers, but the team has since grown to ten members.

This was Josh Kriegel’s first year coaching the wrestling team. He recently graduated from Coe College before moving to Montezuma to become a physical education teacher and coach.

Kriegel very much enjoys coaching wrestling. “I really just enjoy the sport,” he says, “I remember... coming back to coming back to my high school in Iowa Valley, and I’d go watch the high school wrestlers there. I just love keeping up with the sport... [and] I like the competitive nature the sport brings.”

His first year as a coach has been going swimmingly for both him and the wrestlers. Not all ten wrestlers have competed yet due to injuries and drops to different weight classes, but everyone is continuing to be competitive and keeping positive.

Kriegel states, “The guys are still working towards their individual goals, and that’s most important for [them] right now... I think they’re one step closer to completing [their goals] every day.”

Despite overall positive attitudes, some practices and meets have been harder than others which is to be expected. Kriegel believes that the hardest aspect of wrestling is “trying to keep the wrestlers motivated.”

He shares, “There’s some days where they’re not ready to go, and they’ll come to practice, and that’ll show. I just remind them it’s a long season, and it has its benefits in the end.”

Kriegel does his best to get the wrestlers ready for all of their meets. He shows them different moves and techniques at practices as well as get them conditioned. He lets them know about what each match will bring so that when they compete, they know what to expect.

The boys have improved greatly over the season. According to Kriegel, “Their technique and conditioning have improved greatly. We work on those two things every day. We’ve won quite a few matches

based on just our technique and conditioning.”

The wrestlers are continuing to improve their skills, too. Each player has something different to bring to the mat, and they use that to their advantage. “I think,” Kriegel says, “that they’re improving on what they think that they’re best at.”

The overall end-of-season goal right now is to make it on to the State level. “I’ve told my wrestlers from day one [the goal is] to go to State. Our motto is ‘Brave the journey.’ It’s a long journey for us, and that’s what I like about wrestling; you have to brave the sport. So what better way to do it than with the Montezuma Braves, braving the journey to Wells Fargo.”

As the season comes to a close, Kriegel would like to say this to the Montezuma community: “The wrestling community have been great fans. They come ready to go and cheer us on. It’s great to see familiar faces on long road trips and long tournaments. Please keep coming to support the wrestling team because there’s big things coming at the end of this season.”

## Winter Break for Montezuma Students and Staff

By Brayden Stockman

Winter break is over for Montezuma students, and they have now returned to their everyday school life, but students and teachers are still thinking fondly of the short time they had off. Families celebrated Christmas, students and teachers alike took some time to relax, and some families even went on vacation!

One student who celebrated a more traditional Christmas was sophomore Blake Stone. For Christmas, he received, as he puts it, “My one true desire: socks. There was nothing else really amazing.” He says his fondest memory of the break was visiting Target with his dad, and spending nearly all of the money he received for Christmas on that one trip.

On the other hand,

freshman Michael DeJong escaped the cold of Iowa to go to the Grenadines with his family for their winter break, arriving back to school three days late. For Christmas, he received a new drone, which he uses often, and Apple AirPods for his phone. His fondest memory of the vacation was, “Getting to spend a great vacation with my family around the Caribbeans.”

One of the teachers who spent a traditional Christmas with her three kids and husband, which was her fondest memory of the break, was band teacher Carri Burnett. Despite being more of a gift giver than a gift receiver, she is still ecstatic with her FitBit, as she uses it on the daily. She also looks fondly upon the two larger family

Christmases, as she enjoys spending time with family.

Agriculture teacher Mrs. Schanbacher, however, not only received Christmas gifts, but she also received baby gifts for the coming member of the Schanbacher family. Her favorite gifts that she received were some diamond earrings and a brand new cookbook. Her favorite memory was going to see all of her family that she hadn’t seen in several months for Christmas.

While winter break may be over and school back in session for the second semester, students and teachers alike will remember it fondly for all of the gifts and good memories they have brought from their time over the break.



**VICTORIOUS:** Freshman wrestler Jacob Facile emerges victorious after a match at BGM. Facile is one of the ten members of the Braves wrestling team, coached by Mr. Josh Kriegel.

Photo credit: Carissa Van Zee

## Boys Basketball Bonanza: An update on the Braves’ Season

By Chase Talbert

The Montezuma High School boys basketball team is approximately 52% through their regular season with a team record of 10-1 as of January 12. So this season is going rather well for them, and that’s what first year head coach Derrick Dengler believed when he was asked about it.

Coach Dengler has, so far, been very pleased with this year’s players. They are hardworking, competitive, and very focused, and he’s looking forward to the rest of this season with the team maintaining that attitude.

This year the team is down at least nine players due to last year’s seniors graduating, but that hasn’t made this year any less successful for the team. The personnel change has only affected the team’s strengths and weaknesses, and it hasn’t put a damper on the team’s season thus far.

The team’s weaknesses are also something that

they’re attempting to correct. The main thing that the team is working to get better at is their defense, boxing out the opposing team, and just being more solid defensively overall in order to make their rebounding game better. Though the team is not perfect, coach Dengler has continued to maintain

a coaching position on the boys team for the last six years, that’s since he first began teaching here.

A fun fact about coach Dengler: his all-time favorite basketball team is the Utah Jazz, his all-time favorite player, also a member of the Jazz, is Jeff Hornacek.

When asked about his

reasoning as to why he enjoys leading the basketball team, coach Dengler stated, “Because it’s a sport that I’ve always enjoyed, it teaches teamwork, self-improvement, which then transfers over to team improvement, and it’s just great to see that happen.”



**GOING UP STRONG:** Senior Andy McCulley goes up for a layup during the Sigourney game on December 15. The Braves won the game 85-23.

Photo credit: Maddy McKeag



**TEAM HUDDLE:** The Braves gather around head coach Derrick Dengler during the North Mahaska game on December 8. The Braves won the game 59-28.

Photo credit: Sydney Collins

## The Blue and White Staff



## Calendar of Events

**Thursday**  
JH Boys BB @ English Valleys - 4:15 pm  
V Wrestling @ HLV - 6:00 pm

**Friday**  
V BB vs Colfax-Mingo: Here - 6:00 pm  
**Saturday**  
District Speech Contest: Here  
V Wrestling @ North Tama - 10:00 am

**Monday**  
JH Girls BB @ Iowa Valley - 4:15 pm  
JH Boys BB vs Keota: Here - 4:15 pm  
JV/V Boys BB vs ICA: Here - 6 pm

**Tuesday**  
JH Boys BB vs Sigourney: Here - 4:15 pm  
JV/V BB Quad @ BGM - 6:00 pm

**Wednesday**  
No Activities

**Thursday**  
JH Boys BB vs Oskey Christian: Here - 4:15 pm