

Not In Step

GICC Marching Band Finds Alternate Ways to Entertain Amid COVID-19

School Choice

Legislature Falls Short in School Choice Equality

Crusader Volleyball Rocks!

Lady Crusaders Sweep Monarchs In Three Sets

School hosts first game on 'Sader sod; team fights for its first win of season

By Kajetan Hubl and Koby Bales

The Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) football team played their first varsity football game on home turf for the first time in school history on Friday, September 11, 2020. The Crusaders beat the Centennial Broncos 42-12.

In preparation for the game, the school put in new sod and adjusted the watering schedule to get rid of dry spots. The football program also cleared out old sports equipment and trees on and around the field. Line-man coach Tom Moore lined the field and painted the logos and numbers on as well.

The school rented stadium lights, added bleachers, and repainted the goalposts. In addition, a few football players also pitched in to prepare the field for the game, by staying behind the night before the game to line the field.

"When they got done, it looked like a true, high-school ready-to-play football field on a Friday night football game," said assistant coach Keith Kester.

As Friday rolled around, the team was ready to play on the 'Sader Sod. The Crusaders played an almost perfect game, which led to many players crediting the newly completed field.

"The 'Sader Sod is magical! It has magical powers, and it helped us. I don't care, 'Saders by forty! It definitely helped us being at home in our own locker room, and we don't have to move over to GISH. Every game is an away game, so this game we... got to have our own locker room and training room," left tackle and middle



Russ Martinez (12), quarterback, avoids a tackle by a Centennial defender on Sept. 11, 2020, in a 42-12 GICC victory. The game took place at GICC for the first time ever.

linebacker Will Goering (12) said.

While current players enjoyed playing at home, alumni wished that they could have had the same opportunity.

"There's something special about playing on your home turf, being in the locker room, being in a comfortable position. It was something we always thought about, but something we never thought was plausible. We've always played over at Senior High, [and] Northwest, that's just the way it was. Those were our homes, but this Friday night showed that this could really be a great home for

us," head coach and former GICC football player, Tim Dvorak said.

Families, administrators, and alumni came together to watch the first-ever high school varsity football game played at GICC. The impact was felt throughout the entire facility, from the sideline to the stands and even the press box.

"I think it meant a lot. We had a lot of positive reactions from alumni and the current communities of parents, supporters, and boosters. It meant more than we initially thought it would. The outcome of the game

and how the facility looked really amplified the feelings we initially had," Dvorak said.

Seeing the reaction the community had to the game, many wondered whether this was a plausible long-term change.

"There's a lot that goes into that decision. A lot of people and a lot of improvements that need to be made for the facilities. [It's] too soon to tell. Right now we're focused on finishing out this season, we'll look at... [it] when the time comes," coach Dvorak concluded.

Marching band temporarily gone; GICC musicians continue playing

By Hayden Price and Alicyn O'Neill



Band director Monika Peters conducts the band early in the fall as they practice on the stage in the Howard Schumann Gym.

Around this time in years past, the Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) marching band would be preparing for marching competitions. This year is different; as a result of the pandemic, many marching band competitions from around the state have been canceled.

"Everything has been canceled. The Harvest of Harmony canceled first, then Minden canceled, then UNK canceled. There are zero parades for us to go to," said band director Monika Peters.

Hearing that marching band would likely not occur this year because of the pandemic was met with disappointment but also understanding. Signs were present that parades would likely not happen this fall.

"Definitely disappointment, we felt like we could have had a really good year, but we know that with everything going on in the world, it might just not be the best time to be having parades," said drum major Molly Mueller (12).

The news of canceled competitions disappointed band participants,

yet, many band members were happy to continue with pep band and concert band.

"At the beginning of the year... we didn't even think we were going to get to do pep band. That was a double whammy, no parades, no pep band," stated Peters.

However, the band was fortunate enough only to suffer a single whammy. Band supporters stepped up to make performing possible by creating bell covers for instruments.

"I had moms come in, and we made bell covers, which is supposed to be way safer, so the air isn't coming out of all those horns," shared Peters.

With blue bell covers made by supporters, the band will play at some events this year. Band members are now able to play at sporting events along with concerts. Despite not being able to march this year, the band will also continue to play for the Crusader Nation.

"At least some people get to listen to how much we've improved from last year to this year. So we're really excited," stated Mueller.

One act begins preparation for competition

By Ayonya Birthi and Angela Messere

One act began sessions with auditions on September 13-14, 2020 in Grand Island Central Catholic's Little Theater.

One act is a performance of a single act from a play. The plays vary every year and actors may play multiple roles.

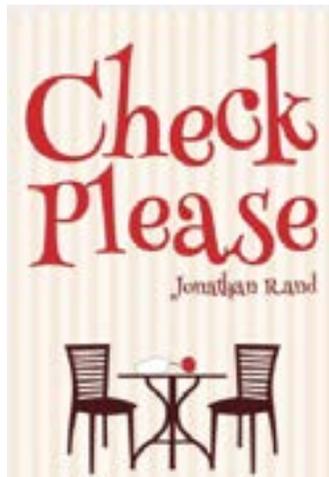
The director of this group, Dave Hulinsky, has chosen "Check Please!" for this year's performance. Hulinsky was very excited for the upcoming production for many reasons.

"This one's going to force the actors and actresses to kind of get out of their box a little bit and they will be forced to play more than one character and so it's going to teach them more about being a well-rounded actor... They will have to make sure that the mannerism that they are using for one character cannot be used for a different character," said Hulinsky.

"Check Please!" is a modern play featuring prospective couples going on a blind date and meeting for the first time at a restaurant. The one act team will showcase this play at

competitions in the near future. Returning performers include: Molly Mueller (12), Rylee Lonnemann (11), Brandon Hollister (11), Celia Sutherland (12), and Hayden Price (12).

"I think we had so much fun last year and learned so much it was almost impossible not to want to do it all over again with the same loveable cast," concluded Hulinsky.



Brandon Hollister (11) reads from a script at auditions for "Check Please!". Practices occur in the newly remodeled little theater.



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Editor-in-Chief, The Lance

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Editorial Policy

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Outside submissions, suggestions, or letters to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They may be brought to Mrs. Yager-Wach in Room 213 or emailed to journalism@gicc.org. Submissions may also be mailed to:

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Any and all submissions must be signed to be considered for publication, and the editor reserves the right to edit or print any submissions.

School choice key to educational superiority

By Hayden Price

It's easy to take for granted the educational opportunities that I have been given. For all of elementary school and the majority of middle school, I attended public institutions. I had many outstanding teachers at those schools. Then I entered the "scary" realm of the unknown, Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC), a private school.

Because of my experiences at GICC, I feel compelled to write this editorial. GICC has allowed me to flourish as a student and person. Our school is far more intimate than any other school I have attended. This intimacy allows students like me to get involved in a multitude of ways and form lifelong friendships.

The benefits of private education, such as mine, are evident statistically. According to the [ACT website](#), the average ACT score in Nebraska for 2018 (the latest year I could find) was 20.1. Comparatively, based on information GICC has made public, the average ACT score for the Crusaders' class of 2020 was 24.3. Admittedly, the ACT should not be used exclusively to test a school's success, but GICC exceeds many educational benchmark categories compared to the statewide average.

The educational aspect of our school is excellent. Furthermore, it is wonderful that I can go to a private school that emphasizes faith, positive relationships, and involvement in churches and our community. However, many students across our country cannot attend a private school or a far more suitable school for their needs.

This lack of school choice is predominantly due to the tuition expenses that private schools charge. At GICC, we are blessed with

generosity. This generosity allows many students to attend school on scholarships. According to [Private School Review](#) for the 2020-2021 year, the average tuition for a private high school in the United States is \$14,821, which is far above tuition rates at GICC.

With this number rapidly rising every year, private high school education has become similar to that of college education expenses. The extreme costs of private schools have formed a sense of elitism in private schools around the country. This stigmatization is, in fact, a reality throughout the country. Private schools are, in some cases, just for the rich.

Several things could occur to change this educational inequality that has rooted itself in America. The best way to allow students to have choices in their educational quests is to level the playing field; to put it in more controversial terms, to implement school vouchers.

In recent years, this has become a divisive proposition with Democrats (vehemently opposed to vouchers) and Republicans (for vouchers and school choice).

Nebraska, which is for the most part, dominated by Republicans, has not yet passed tax-incentive legislation or legislation that in any way would assist low-income families with tuition expenses.

A bill that was moved off the unicameral agenda by a filibuster would have allowed taxpayers to receive credits for up to 50% of their income tax liability or the total amount paid towards a private school. The bill, called the Opportunity Scholarships Act (LB670), was introduced by Sen. Lou Ann Linehan. Bills like this one have been introduced in the past to no avail.

Legislation like this has failed for a multitude of reasons. One such reason is that opponents of vouchers and school choice claim that funding would be moved away from public schools to private schools in an indirect way. I take a capitalistic approach to this issue. If public schools cater to students adequately, fewer tax cuts will occur because fewer people will see the need to enroll in private schools. Thus, this forms a sense of competition, which should allow schools to flourish as they compete for better test scores, a better school atmosphere, and student success.

The choice of where a student can go to school should, at least, be available to everyone, low and high income alike. In some cases, a family might not be content with how their taxpayer funds are being spent or believe that one school's environment is superior to another. Said family should have the option to put their student(s) in whichever school is conducive to their situation.

The way I see it, I want to ensure that if I pay taxes, the money is being used properly. In many instances, money is not allocated correctly. Many publicly-funded schools have had outlandish expenditures, such as La Joya ISD, which [ABC News](#) reports is considered a "poor district" by state standards. La Joya built a \$20 million water park with its general funds. Another district, McKinney ISD, spent \$70 million on a high school stadium. These independent school districts receive funding from three sources: local property taxes, state funds and federal funds.

Beyond this, I think it is also essential to bring light to the fact that many public school superintendents have extravagant compensation packages, which in some instances include housing and transportation, life insurance, etc. An [Omaha World-Herald](#) article published in October of 2019 reported that the superintendent of Lincoln Public School's compensation totaled \$484,669 in a single year.

I understand that some jobs within a district are vital; however, this pay is extreme when considering the President of the United States makes \$400,000. A water park and a vast stadium are fun perks to have in a local school district, but school districts' focus should be on teacher salaries, school textbooks, building repairs, etc. Many schools stray away from these essential expenses to fund unnecessary projects. The average taxpayer should have the ability to deduct a percentage, if not all, of their private education tuition expenses if they feel that the private institution they are paying for is doing a better job than the public school alternative.

I am not saying that all private schools are superior to public schools. However, many private schools exceed testing scores of publicly funded schools. If parents want their children to go to academically rigorous schools, that should be their right.



Crusaders for Life club begins at GICC; aims to establish a pro-life generation

By Hayden Price and Gavin Langer

Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) has a new club, Crusaders for Life, that offers students a way to unite the student body with the common goal to preserve pro-life values.

"We think it's important to teach people pro-life values and what it means to be pro-life," said co-president Gabe Wemhoff (12).

GICC Principal Jordan Engle, Dee Hanssen, Michael Kube, and Ann Rief, along with Hayden Price (12) and Wemhoff, started the club at the end of last school year to allow students to share their voices and gain more insight into pro-life issues.

"We want to do more than just change Central Catholic to pro-life but also the community. Once you change the community, you can change the state; once you change the state, things can really snowball from there to hopefully end abortion," shared Wemhoff.

Pro-life Director for the Diocese of Grand Island, Michael Kube, has worked in conjunction with Students for Life to begin developing pro-life clubs throughout Catholic schools in

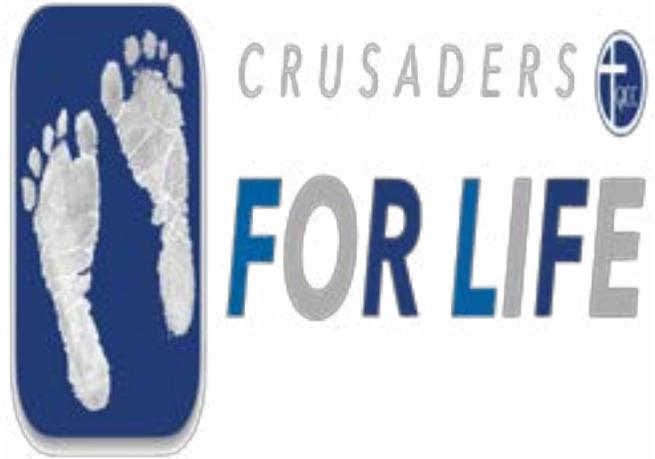
the Grand Island Diocese. Kube's goals include getting speakers to schools, spreading the pro-life message, and attending the March for Life in Washington D.C. Ultimately, Kube sees the importance of reaching younger generations.

"I think it's important that the younger generation take on this pro-life movement for future generations. It's so important that they understand the facts and the logic and the reasons why it is so important to be pro-life," added Kube.

Crusaders for Life was involved in Shoot4Life at the Heartland Shooting Park on September 19, 2020.

Once Crusaders for Life is fully operational, there will be monthly meetings and special events for members to learn more about pro-life matters. Goals are established for this year by the founding leaders.

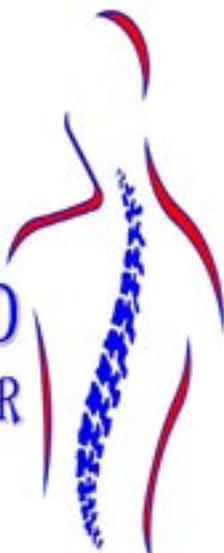
"We have future goals... one of them is to try to encourage high schoolers to attend the national pro-life march in D.C... We are working on a scholarship that supports sending students to D.C. this year," concluded Kube.



Homecoming 2020
Join us at the dance, Saturday, Oct. 3



2020 Homecoming Candidates (back row): Jackson Farias, Koby Bales, Will Goering, Zach Cloud, and Daniel Martinez-Rey and (front row) Grace Herbek, Raegan Gellatly, Ashlyn Kucera, Ellie Alberts, and Julia Pils.



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Tennis team places third at Bellevue West Invite

By Angela Messere

The boys tennis team performed well at the Bellevue West High School Invitational at the Thunderbird courts in Bellevue, Nebraska. A win by the No. 1 doubles team helped Grand Island Central Catholic's (GICC) boys tennis team place third in Saturday's Bellevue West Invitational.

Jackson Farias (12) and Jackson Henry (10) went 4-0 and defeated Bellevue West 9-8 (7-1). GICC's No. 2 doubles players, Jonathan Schardt (11), and Alex King (11), placed 3rd and Bowdie Fox (10) placed third in No. 2 singles. Koby Bales (12) placed fifth in No. 1 singles.

True to their long experience on the tennis team in doubles, Henry and Farias excelled and pulled off a win for the Crusaders.

Schardt and King also displayed their mastery of the sport as they continued to provide leadership for their team.

"The most challenging part of this season has been trying to win as many wins as we can so we can get a good seed at state," Schardt said.

The team constantly strategizes to see not just a short term win but long term success.

The tournament culminated with a third place finish for the Crusaders behind Bellevue West and Lincoln North Star. GICC's team score was 60.

Although COVID has affected many aspects of the boys tennis season, the GICC boys have adjusted well.

"Luckily, coronavirus hasn't affected tennis that much. We have to wear our masks when picking up balls in between drills and we have to wear masks when riding in the car to meets," said Schardt.

With a few accommodations, the boys tennis team is enjoying a normal year.



Bowdie Fox (10) smacks down a high volley at Adams Central. During the Bellevue West Invitational, on Saturday, September 20, 2020, Fox took third place in No. 2 singles.



Alex King (11) finishes his serve during a match at Adams Central High School on Thursday, May 10, 2020.



Jackson Henry (11) serves in the back while Jackson Farias (12) anticipates the opposition's next move at Adams Central. During the Bellevue West Invitational on Saturday, September 20, 2020, the two earned first place going undefeated in No. 1 doubles.

STATS

Crusader Tennis

@ Bellevue West Invite

Jackson Farias (12) and Jackson Henry (11) defeated Bellevue West 9-8 (7-1)

Bowdie Fox defeated Lincoln High 8-2

Jonathan Schardt and Alex King defeated Lincoln High 8-2

Koby Bales defeated Lincoln High 8-4

Girls find success on course

Upperclassmen lead team to win at Minden

By Angela Messere

The Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) girls golf team hit their stride after placing first in the Minden High School Girls Golf Invitational with a score of 406 and runner up in the Kearney Catholic High School Awarii Challenge with a score of 393.

The team was led by Angela Messere (11) who shot an 88 and an 82, respectively and Ashlyn Kucera (12), who shot a 101 and 91.

Kucera, team captain, in her final year of golf, assumes a leadership position over the younger members of the team.

"Yes, I am excited to be a leader this year. All of the girls out this year are a lot of fun and I enjoy being able to help them when I can," said Kucera.

Kucera has been a member of the girls golf team since her freshman year. When asked about how COVID has affected her season so far, she was pleased to say that it has not had

**"Its been a learning experience and the feeling of trying something new is exciting..."
Kennedi Henke (12).**

as much of an impact as previously thought.

"COVID has not affected our season as much as I thought it would. We do things a little differently at tournaments, like not trading score-cards with each other but for the most part it has been pretty similar," said Kucera.

Although Kennedi Henke (12), is in her first and final year of high school golf, she is very happy with her performance thus far, and is looking forward to seeing how the rest of the season plays out.

"Its been a learning experience and the feeling of trying something

**"COVID has not affected our season as much as I thought it would..."
Ashlyn Kucera (12).**

new is exciting... I hope to improve my score even more as the season goes on and watch my chipping and putting get better and better," said Henke.

Dee Hanssen, the team's coach, is confident with the prospects of the golf team and commented on their progress so far.

"I think our team is play[ing] really well right now. We keep improving... we were in a lull a few weeks ago and now we are coming back strong."

When asked about their upcoming tournaments, Mrs. Hanssen was confident about their abilities.

"I have really high hopes for the upcoming tournaments... I am really happy we get to play in the Cozad and Columbus Scotus tournaments because they will prepare us for districts and eventually state."

The team took fourth place at Conference on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020 and will complete in districts on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020 at Indianhead Golf Course in Grand Island, Nebraska.



Kennedi Henke (12) watches her putt drive toward the flag at Indianhead Golf Course on Monday, September 14, 2020, against Grand Island Northwest High School. This is Henke's inaugural year participating in golf.



Kennedi Henke (12) and Emery Obermiller-Snyder (10) work on their grip and putting during a practice at Indianhead Golf Course in Grand Island, NE. The team is coached by campus ministry teacher, Dee Hanssen.

STATS

Lady Crusaders

Vs

Minden High School

- Angela Messere: 88
- Ashlyn Kucera: 101
- Ember Klient: 104
- Madeline Logue: 119
- Kennedi Henke: 113
- Total: 406

Crusaders clash with cross-town rivals

By Hayden Price and Alicyn O'Neill

The Crusaders girls softball team faced their cross-town rivals, the Northwest Vikings, on September 10, 2020, at Vets Complex in Grand Island, winning 6-2 in seven innings.

In order to defeat the Vikings, the Crusaders brought high energy to the softball diamond.

"That [excitement] was the key to our success in that game," said second baseman Alexis Mudloff (12).

The Crusaders excited their teammates by exclaiming chants and yelling in support of their friends. Andrea Palma (12), a designated player, was one of many athletes bringing the energy in the dugout.

"I went home and my voice was gone. Was it worth it, 100%," shared Palma.

Emotions were high for the cross-town rivalry, especially because the starting pitcher was a Northwest transfer: Alicyn O'Neill (12). Head coach Brock Culler anticipated some nerves; however, he was confident his team would play undeterred.

"That [excitement] was the key to our success in that game," said Alexis Mudloff (12).

"I really thought that Alicyn O'Neill did an outstanding job. What

was really awesome was that she was able to control her nerves before and during the game, but after the game she was able to let them out," described Culler.

One way the Crusaders prepared and eased their nerves was to properly scout their opponent. The team does this by reading stats on games that their opponents have played in the past. They also single out individual athletes and read their stats from performances in the summer.

"My expectation was to absolutely destroy them," said Andrea Palma (12).

"The first thing you do, you scout the pitching. We had a really nice report on it... Defensively they're a fast team. They like to slap the ball, push the ball and bunt the ball," said Culler.

The Crusaders entered the match-up with high expectations. They were looking for a win. The energy of the Crusaders collided with the excitement of the Viking's senior night. With energy culminating together from both sides these two teams built up a rivalry.

"My expectation was to absolutely destroy them. They talk a big game and I was like... no," concluded Palma.

STATS

GICC/DT/WR
vs
Grand Island Northwest High School
GICC wins 6-2
Alicyn O'Neill Strikeouts - 5
7 hits in 7 innings



Varsity pitcher, Andrea Palma (12), winds up for a pitch. Palma threw seven strikeouts against Crete in a tournament hosted by Hastings, winning the game 2-1.



Varsity second basemen, Alexis Mudloff (12), assumes ready position for the hit against Crete at a tournament hosted by Hastings.



Varsity pitcher, Alicyn O'Neill (12), takes a swing at the first home game of the year in Wood River against Ord, assisting the team in a 10-0 victory.

Crusaders runaway with Loup city meet

By Gavin Langer and Koby Bales

The Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) cross country team ran well on September 10, 2020, at one of their toughest meets, the Loup City Invitational.

Newcomer Zach Cloud (12) led the way for the Crusader boys to win the meet with a time of 17:52. Cloud credited his victory to the team dinner the night before.

"I would say the team dinner the day before [was important for the win]. We went to Olive Garden. I got myself some spaghetti and marinara with meatballs," Cloud said.

The Lady Crusaders placed second in team standings. Raegan Gellatly (12) placed second. Gellatly was pleased with how she ran, considering that the meet was one of their most challenging.

Gellatly mentioned that the course changed from last year, giving it an even harder twist. Luckily the infamous "Heartbreak Hill," a very steep hill on the course, was only run up once instead of twice, like most years.

"This is probably one of our harder meets. They changed up the course from last year, so we didn't

have to run back up a super steep hill called 'Heartbreak Hill,' but it was still just as bad since there were a lot more hills just not quite as steep," commented Gellatly.

Coach Phou Manivong was estatic to see the impressive finishing times. More importantly, seeing the kids happy is one of the main reasons he loves coaching cross country.

Manivong was happy with how his team ran this year at the meet. He credited their excellent times to having the right mindset.

"As long as they go into it with the right mindset, which they did, they ran well," Manivong proudly said.

"I know a lot of teachers and coaches sacrifice their time with their families to work with these kids, but it's well worth it," coach Manivong expressed.

Manivong also emphasized the importance of running along with his team, allowing him to cheer them on throughout their painful journey. Joining his team in their workouts is not just to stay in shape, but to also allow for an independent benchmark for their times.



Zach Cloud (12) surveys the competition while running during the Loup City Invitational on September 10, 2020. Cloud won the event with a time of 17:52.



Grace Herbek (12) paces herself across the course at the Loup City Invitational on September 10, 2020. Herbek placed third with a time of 21:57.

STATS

| Loup City Invitational Results | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Raegan Gellatly (12) | - 21:55 |
| Grace Herbek (12) | - 21:57 |
| Zach Cloud (12) | - 17:52 |
| Jarit Mejia (11) | - 19:13 |
| Austin Miller (10) | - 20:58 |
| Isaac Henry (9) | - 21:31 |
| Victor Castellanos (9) | - 25:53 |
| Rylee Lonneman (11) | - 24:31 |
| Brooklyn Kolbet (11) | - 26:45 |
| Sarah McCarraher (11) | - 30:27 |
| Lidia Ramirez (12) | - 31:18 |

Crusaders sweep Monarchs with tough serving

By Kajetan Hubl and Ayonya Birthi

On Tuesday, September 22, 2020, the Crusaders Volleyball team swept the David City Aquinas Monarchs in a three-set battle.

Set one began as a tight fight, with Aquinas trailing by a few points, but a serving run by libero Haily Asche (12) brought the Crusaders to the lead. The Crusaders led 16-10 halfway through thanks to excellent blocks by middle hitter Lucy Ghaifan (10) and outside hitter Evan Glade (10) and serve runs by Asche and setter Carolyn Maser (9).

The Crusaders won the first set 25-15 with outside hitter Rylie Rice (11) and Asche leading in digs, and Glade leading in kills, with only two service errors and five aces, for the team.

A kill by Woods kicked-off the second set; however, the two teams continued to stay neck-in-neck during the first few points. Again, a short serving run by Asche brought the Crusaders to the lead. The game remained close, with the Crusaders holding the lead with two consecutive aces by Glade.

Nearing the end of the second set, the Crusaders pulled away to a lead of 21-12 following a six-serve run by Maser.

Finishing out the second set with a score of 25-14, the Lady Crusaders had no service errors, and Glade led the team in kills.

A five-point Crusader lead by setter Kylee Hasselmann (11) spurred the Lady Crusaders into the third set. The Lady Crusaders held a significant lead throughout the final set, with serving runs by middle and outside hitter Maddie Urbanski (12) and Maser, and blocks by Ghaifan and Woods, each with two.

The Crusaders pulled away with a win of 25-8 in the third set, sweeping

“The one thing I would say [we needed to adjust to] is the fast sets to the outside; we had to get our block up faster on her and press over the net to block,” Gracie Woods (10).

the Monarchs.

Despite the team’s great game, there were some challenges they faced, both on their side of the net and Aquinas’. The outside hitter

for the Monarchs hit very low sets, to which the Crusaders weren’t accustomed.

“The one thing I would say [we needed to adjust to] is the fast sets to the outside; we had to get our block up faster on her and press over the net to block,” Woods said.

Another challenge the team faced, a common disadvantage young teams have, was their communication.

“[We need to improve our] communication, definitely, there were

some balls that dropped that shouldn’t have,” Asche mentioned.

Overall, the team excelled in serving and playing aggressive at the net.

“I thought Carolyn [Maser]’s serving was very good tonight. She mixed it really well; she mixed in some short ones and had a few aces. I thought Lucy [Ghaifan] did really well tonight at the net, and Gracie [Woods] hit well too. We just had a lot of good plays,” head coach Sharon Zavala commented.

STATS

| | Serves | Aces | Kills | Blocks | Digs |
|---------------|--------|------|--------------|--------|------|
| R. Rice | 100 | | R. Rice 3 | | 2 |
| C. Maser | 100 | 3 | C. Cloud 8 | 1 | 2 |
| H. Asche | 100 | 3 | C. Maser 1 | | 7 |
| K. Hasselmann | 100 | 2 | E. Glade 9 | 1 | 10 |
| M. Urbanski | 92 | 3 | L. Ghaifan 9 | 3 | |
| M. Weyers | 100 | | G. Woods 8 | 3 | 10 |
| E. Glade | 73 | 2 | A. Wilson 1 | | 1 |
| | | | M. Weyers 1 | | |
| | | | H. Asche | | 8 |
| | | | L. Taylor | | 2 |
| | | | K. Hasselman | | 3 |



(Above) Middle hitter, Lucy Ghaifan (10) swings, hoping for a kill, against the David City Aquinas Monarchs on September 22, 2020.

(Right) Middle hitter, Chloe Cloud (11) takes a swing against the David City Aquinas Minarchs. The Crusaders beat the Monarchs at Grand Island Central Catholic on September 22, 2020.



Outside Hitter, Evan Glade (10), leaps up to block against the David City Monarchs, on September 22, 2020, at Grand Island Central Catholic.

New year, new rules, new changes in football

Procedure Adaptations Necessary for the Continuation of Season

By Payton Gangwish

Football Rule Changes

RULE 1

Reduced fans in stands/no fans in stands

RULE 2

Mask required by players, coaches and referees

RULE 3

No handshakes after games

RULE 4

(NFL Only) No jersey swaps after games

September brought the return of football in Nebraska and across the nation. With the return of the sport during a pandemic, the governing boards limited team actions.

Throughout the summer, the Nebraska Schools Activities Association (NSAA) limited teams to summer weights and open gym with a ten-person limit during the beginning of summer and a twenty-five person group at the end of summer. This added the complexity to the weights schedules set up by each school.

"Right after everything that was going on in the spring, I knew it was going to be interesting to see if we would even be able to play in the fall... we still didn't even know during the second week of August if it was even going to happen," said Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) Athletic Director Dick Ross.

"I have to be a little more deliberate and thoughtful in terms of the COVID-19 protocols... Everyone on the team has been issued a gaiter mask and will wear them if their helmets are on them at that time," head coach Tim Dvorak said.

Dvorak had to make adjustments to everything the team touched and how they interacted with each other.

"We had to go about it day-by-day... Had to make sure everything was covered, sanitized," Ross added.

Ross said that the school manages the COVID-19 restrictions on a day-by-day basis.

"Our coaches have been enforcing the protocols... We also speak with Mr. Engle, he helps out with making the proper decisions, has the final say on COVID-19 related issues," said Ross.

"The coaches have done a great job of maintaining the protocols along with the GICC administration setting those protocols to make it a little easier for us," added Dvorak.

With most of the Grand Island's football teams having their first games scheduled on August 29, 2020, except Grand Island Senior High (GISH) whose team had a COVID-19 outbreak one week before the season, high school football was in full swing in the city. GISH, in order to contain the spread of the virus, announced that visiting fans would not be allowed to enter Grand Island Memorial Stadium, prompting the GICC varsity football team to play at GICC for the first time in school history. This move by GISH's superintendent caused an outcry from GISH and visitor fans alike.

With each school having their own COVID-19 protocols, the common synopsis has been that all players should wear a mask and social distance whenever possible; however, schools in rural areas that haven't been affected too much have seen little change in their protocols due to lower positive cases. Larger districts, such as Omaha Public School canceled all fall sports this year.

Across the nation, some state's high school activities associations have taken more drastic measures than the NSAA have put in place. California, for example, has postponed football until the winter of 2021. At the collegiate level, both the BIG Ten and PAC-12 conferences had initially postponed their seasons to the spring of 2021, the former revised its earlier decision and will start playing on the weekend of October 23, 2020.

With changes across the board for football, one has to wonder if these changes will become a permanent fixture in the sporting world...only time will tell.

