



The Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones took on the Sioux Valley Cossacks at home on August 30 in Willow Lake. Above, from left to right, Cyclones Sami Brenden and Shay Michalski watch as teammate Tehya Vig sets the ball.

Photo by Christina Kannegieter

Lady Cyclones defeated by Warriors 3-0, Cossacks 3-1

By Heather Jordan

In the 2024 season opener, Clark-Willow Lake fell to Castlewood 21-25, 16-25 and 18-25 on August 28 in Castlewood. CWL came out of the gate with a determined mindset but could not capitalize to capture the match.

The Cyclones went 79-89 on hitting with 25 kills led by seniors Shay Michalski's nine and Hannah Heiman's six.

Defensively, the back row stayed busy all match long with Avery Lee digging up 46 balls to lead the Cyclones. Kate Larson added 17 digs, while Michalski added two blocks. Valley Roebke and Samantha Brenden each contributed a single block for the Cyclones.

At the service line, Zoe Nichols went 11-14 with three aces, while Avery Lee went a perfect 14-14 with two aces.

Serving: Clark-Willow Lake six aces (Zoe Nichols 11-14 three aces, Avery Lee 14-14 two aces); Castlewood 68-73 10 aces (Nora Solberg 13-14 four aces, Cyndi Kudrna 12-12 two aces, Emerson Carter 10-10 two aces).

Hitting: Clark-Willow Lake 79-89 25 kills (Shay Michalski 26-29 nine kills, Hannah Heiman 21-27 six kills); Castlewood 75-83 29 kills (Carter 14 kills, Claire Horn five kills, Ava Ruml three kills, Cassidy Kirwan three kills).

Setting: Clark-Willow Lake (Sami Brenden 17 assists); Castlewood 28 assists (Kirwan 18, Kudrna eight).

Digs: Clark-Willow Lake 107 (Lee 46, Kate Larson 17); Castlewood 38 (Kirwan 12, Horn eight, Solberg four).

Blocks: Clark-Willow Lake four (Michalski two, Valley Roebke one, Brenden one); Castlewood six (Carter one solo two assists, Ruml one solo two assists, Lilly Jacobsen three assists).

Cyclones vs. Cossacks 1-3

The Clark-Willow Lake fell to 0-2 on the season in a nail-biting four sets to Sioux Valley 26-28, 18-25, 26-24 and 21-25 on August 30 in Willow Lake.

The Cossacks won the first set 26-24 and continued the momentum to take the second set 25-18, before the Cyclones powered ahead 26-24 to win the third set. Sioux Valley closed out the match with a 25-21 victory in the fourth and final set.

Shay Michalski led the Cyclones with three service aces, 12 kills and three blocks.

Hannah Heiman added eight kills, while Zoe Nichols went 13-17 at the service line with four aces.

Samantha Brenden added 98 assists as CWL went 103-113 converting 33 kills on the match.

The Cyclones stepped up their defensive presence both in the back row with Avery Lee's 29 digs and Kate Larson's 27 digs. At the net were the trio of Michalski, Shelby Begeman and Brenden contributing three blocks each.

Serving: Sioux Valley (Kaedyn Sapp seven aces, Adison Renkly six aces); Clark-Willow Lake 75-88 14 aces (Nichols 13-17 four aces, Michalski 13-16 three aces).

Hitting: Sioux Valley 36 kills (Renkly 17, Sapp eight); Clark-Willow Lake 103-113 33 kills (Michalski 28-32 12 kills, Heiman 27-28 eight kills).

Setting: Sioux Valley (Sunny Hesby 13 assists, Machaela Gerasch 12 assists); Clark-Willow Lake (Brenden 18 assists).

Digs: Sioux Valley 62 (Kapp 14, Emma Gorvin 14, Caitlin Russell 10); Clark-Willow Lake 112 (Lee 29, Larson 27).

Blocks: Sioux Valley 10 (Lacey Langland three, Renkly three, Gorvin three); Clark-Willow Lake nine (Begeman three, Brenden three, Michalski three).

Records: Sioux Valley 2-0; Clark-Willow Lake 0-2.

Next up: The Lady Cyclones head to Milbank on Thursday, September 5 to face the Bulldogs.



Huber wins state pedal tractor pull

Kailee Jo Huber, daughter of Jesse and Tara Huber of Crocker, competed in the pedal tractor pull competition at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron last week. Kailee Jo is pictured above with her first place trophy from the state pedal pull.

Huber was awarded first place in the five-year-old girls' division. She qualified for the the state championship at the Corn Palace in Mitchell that was held Monday, September 2. Huber took first place in the state competition, qualifying her to move on to the national contest on September 28 that will be held in Mitchell at the Corn Palace.

Photo Courtesy of Tara Huber

Three new faces greet students at Willow Lake School

Tuesday, September 3 was the first day of the 2024-2025 school year at Willow Lake School. Superintendent Chris Lee and Principal Claire Mohr welcomed students on Tuesday.

Students at Willow Lake School saw three new faces upon their arrival. New to Willow Lake School for the 2024-2025 term were Kiara Bokinskie, Shelby Seefeldt and Chayla Vig.

Kiara Bokinskie

Kiara Bokinskie will be a para-professional and junior high volleyball coach at Willow Lake School this year. She is a Clark native, graduating from Clark High School in 2023. Kiara is currently in the process of earning an Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education through Northern State University.

For the past year, Bokinskie has worked at Bethesda Daycare in Aberdeen. Before that, she was employed at Amazing Grace Daycare in Clark for two years.

Kiara's parents are Chris and



New faculty members at Willow Lake School are pictured above, from left to right: Kiara Bokinskie, Chayla Vig and Shelby Seefeldt.

Photo by Christina Kannegieter

Melody Bokinskie of Clark. She has three younger sisters, Payten (13), Anakaila (9) and Mila (5). Kiara is living in Clark.

Shelby Seefeldt

Shelby Seefeldt will be a new assistant cook and custodian for Willow Lake School this year. She is a

DeSmet native, graduating from DeSmet High School in 2010. Shelby is married to Garrett Seefeldt.

Chayla Vig

Chayla Vig will be teaching middle school science, social studies and sixth grade math at Willow Lake School. She is a Willow Lake native,

graduating from Willow Lake High School in 2021.

Vig is currently earning a degree in Elementary Education from Mount Marty University in Watertown.

Chayla's parents are Norman and Tara Vig. She has three younger siblings, Alicia (20), Tehya (junior in high school) and Austin (freshman in high school). She is living in Willow Lake.

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
August 27	78	59	0.08
August 28	77	58	0
August 29	82	58	0
August 30	78	53	0
August 31	80	54	0
September 1	86	54	0
September 2	75	56	0
2024 precipitation to date	18.49"		
2023 precipitation to date	13.59"		



Reuben Dale, son of Josh and Karla Dale of rural Clark County, received a heated pool at his home this summer through the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Reuben is pictured in front of their new pool in the left photo with his parents and brothers, Jacob and Levi.

Above, Reuben's health battle started as an infant with a 16-day stay in Sanford Children's NICU in Sioux Falls.

Photos Courtesy of Karla Dale

Reuben Dale's wish granted after cancer battle

By Tara Knutson

Three-year-old Reuben Dale was born at Prairie Lakes Hospital in Watertown on December 24, 2020 by emergency cesarean section at 36 weeks gestation after Mom, Karla Dale of rural Clark County, was diagnosed with Oligohydramnios, or low levels of amniotic fluid. After delivery, Reuben was found to have underdeveloped lungs and an infection. As a result, the excitement didn't stop with Reuben's arrival for the new family. On Christmas Day, Reuben was flown by airplane to Sanford Children's Hospital in Sioux Falls for continued treatment.

"The doctors told us that he was critically ill from a life-threatening infection. But at this point, they didn't know where the infection was coming from," explained Karla. "My husband Josh and I were not sure of the severity of the situation until we reached Sioux Falls. We really weren't prepared for all of the emotions associated with the situation. The fact that both Josh and I were able to stay with Reuben in Sioux Falls helped us as parents deal with the emotions."

Family played a critical role in keeping the new parents at Reuben's bedside in Sioux Falls. Reuben's older brothers, Jacob and Levi stayed with family during the hospitalization. After Reuben recovered from respiratory difficulties, he had to maintain his nutrition. After Reuben mastered that milestone, he was off to the races with his development.

After spending 16 days in the neonatal intensive care unit, Reuben was able to go home with his parents and met his two brothers, Jacob and Levi. With the close supervision and encouragement of his family, life in the Dale household became filled with tumblers and giggles as Reuben continued to flourish.

However, in September 2021, Reuben developed a full-body rash

that was unyielding to treatment of several doctors. "We originally thought it was allergies, and we tried everything to get the rash to resolve. We changed soaps throughout the house to try to get the rash to go away," explained Karla. In association with the treatment of a potential allergy, Karla noticed a lump on the right side of Reuben's stomach. This discovery brought the family back to the doctor's office for another diagnostic workup, including x-rays and ultrasounds. It was then that the young parents received the news no parents should have to hear. "There is a mass on your child's right kidney, and he needs to see a pediatric oncologist," Reuben's physician affirmed.

The Dale family found themselves to Sanford Children's Hospital in Sioux Falls for further testing. The workup revealed a diagnosis of a Wilms Tumor.

According to Mayo Clinic, Wilms Tumor, also known as nephroblastoma, is a kidney cancer that affects children most often during the ages of three to four years of age.

On November 10, 2021, Reuben's right kidney was removed because the tumor had "completely engulfed the whole kidney." Karla remembered, "The surgery only took about an hour but seemed like forever when you are sitting in the waiting room waiting for any news on your baby."

Surgery went well, and recovery was uneventful except for the challenges of keeping a young boy in bed to rest and heal. Two weeks later, Reuben had a catheter port implanted into his chest wall to begin chemotherapy treatments.

From the end of November 2021 to March 2022, the toddler received eight cycles of chemotherapy. The treatments started out weekly and then progressed to being every two weeks and went well, according to Reuben's mom. Karla explained that Reuben didn't get sick and did

not lose his hair. Follow-up body scans revealed a true blessing at the end of the journey for the Dale family: The cancer was gone. Reuben was able to "ring the bell" in March signaling the completion of his cancer treatment. "We were so excited! We could move forward with our life and were given our little boy back again. I was confident that we had gotten it all gone," she expressed. Or, so she thought.

The lack of medical appointments in the Dale's family schedule was short-lived. On a follow-up body scan in July of 2022, it was noted that the cancer had traveled to Reuben's liver, lungs and diaphragm. A surgery followed closely thereafter in August with removal of the portions of the liver affected by the cancer and the spots on the diaphragm. While the surgeons were taking the diaphragm spots out, one spot broke open in his abdominal cavity.

Because of the spot breaking open, the pediatric oncologists added radiation to Reuben's treatment plan in addition to chemotherapy. In order to get the precise radiation therapy Reuben's little body needed to deliver the therapy to the affected areas of his abdominal cavity but avoid other areas such as his heart, the family needed to travel to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

It was at Mayo that Reuben received another 14 cycles of chemotherapy and 11 days of radiation. This treatment cycle created more side effects than the last. Reuben occasionally spent the night in the hospital to counteract the nausea and vomiting brought on by the chemotherapy medication. He also lost his hair. "He's been such a fighter through all of this though," praised Mom Karla. "He always has tried to keep up with his big brothers. They were the best medicine for him."

In June 2023, Reuben was able to ring the cancer clear bell once again. The second bell ringing

hasn't brought the same level of confidence to Reuben's parents. "I'm not as confident that we are done with the journey as I was the first time," Karla expressed.

Every three months, Reuben has a follow-up scan to provide full-body surveillance and monitor for development of new cancer spots. "I get anxious before each scan," his mom said.

Karla remembers when Reuben's hair started to grow back. "Reuben said, 'I am a big boy now - I can comb my hair'. That was really hard to hear. I don't think he remembers all of the events, but he does recognize certain aspects of our journey. He recognizes the hospital and knows when he is going to get a lab draw."

Early on in Reuben's cancer journey, the family suffered the loss of Karla's father. "After Dad died, Jacob and Levi became scared that Reuben was going to die also. We explained to them that the doctors are doing all they can to help make Reuben healthy. The boys were five- and three-years-old when Reuben was diagnosed, and they didn't understand too much. There were many tough discussions to help them. I don't know how we did it, but we had to be strong for the kids," stated Karla.

The medical road since June of 2023 has been free of further challenges for Reuben and his family. This summer, the family celebrated one year of Reuben being cancer free!

In July, Karla had contact with the Make-A-Wish Foundation to grant Reuben a wish. The Make-A-Wish Foundation strives to grant wishes to children diagnosed with critical illnesses to help the children believe that anything is possible, and gives them the strength to fight harder against their illnesses. "We wanted to pick something that he could grow with. With Reuben's

Reuben Dale (continued on page 8)