



Members of the 2025-26 Otis-Bison High School football team are (left to right) front row: Brayden Vanpelt, Brooke Elsen, Maddox Firebaugh, Dylan Richardson, Tyler Gradig, Gavin Alloway, Marcus Starr; back row: Travis Ross, Noah Reichel, Aiden Ochs-Lohrey, Ricky Martinez, Konner Schenk, Kolton Cory and Kelson Juno. Not pictured are Head Coach Marc Cowles, Assistant Coach Anton Foust, and Managers Ethan Maier and Daniel Chapman. (photo by Riggs Photography)

## Cougars kick off season Friday

The Otis-Bison High School football team will kick off the 2025 season on the road, playing Western Plains at Ransom. The Cougars were 6-4 last season.

This is the second year for Coach Marc Cowles and the Cougars to play 6-man football. This is Cowles 23rd year as coach, with a career record of 110-105. This is the first year for assistant coach Anton Foust.

“We are excited and again are ready to embrace the 6-man Classification. Having a year under our belt will help our players understand how the 6-man game is played and what it takes to win 6-man games. We have a nice balance of players from each grade which will allow us to play older kids and allow the development of the younger players without having to throw them right into the competitive ring,” said Coach Cowles.

Returning offensive starters are seniors

Gavin Alloway and Kelson Juno. Returning defensive starters are Alloway and Juno as well as sophomore Aiden Ochs-Lohrey.

Alloway is returning as running back. He rushed last year for 570 yards on 80 carries and eight touchdowns. He had 15 receptions for 126 yards and two TDs, and recording 29 tackles as a defensive back.

Juno started last season at center, but led the team in receiving. He had 19 catches of 413 yards and 10 touchdowns, and also had a rushing TD. He had a fumble recovery return touchdown as well as an interception return touchdown. He had 23 tackles, including two sacks.

Ochs-Lohrey started every game last year at linebacker as a freshman. He led the team in tackles with 84 total tackles, including 54 solos, six tackles for a loss, two interceptions and one defensive touchdown.



Members of the 2025 Otis-Bison High School volleyball team are (left to right) front row: freshmen Rowyn Juno and Caitlin Ficken; middle row: Lily Schwindt, Shaelyn Richmeier, Jade Holman, Brooklynn Roth, Allie Smith; back row: seniors Madyson Chapman, Emma Bahr, Grace Smith, and Payton Reeve. Not pictured are Coach Janelle Maier, and assistant coach Dee Bartonek. (photo by Riggs Photography)

## Lady Cougars get set for 2025 season

The Otis-Bison High School volleyball team started off the 2025 season by hosting a jamboree on Tuesday, August 26, with Central Plains and Spearville, and competing in the Norton tournament on Saturday, August 30.

The Lady Cougars defeated Colby 2-1 (17-25, 25-20, 25-23), and lost to Norton 0-2 (20-25, 18-25), Beloit 0-2 (10-25, 17-25) and Ulysses 1-2 (25-16, 17-25, 20-25).

The 2024 Record was 24-16.

“We are restructuring as we are moving some players around to different positions

this season. Grace Smith is moving from libero to an outside hitter and Madyson Chapman is working on being an outside as well. Lily Schwindt and Allie Smith are returning as our middle hitters, and Emma Bahr is our setter. We have lost some of our experience and are relying on our underclassmen to pick up the pace,” said Coach Janelle Maier.

“We have built a solid schedule to help develop our skills in being competitive. We are still looking to compete with our league.”



Marissa Pechanec (left) is the only member of the Otis-Bison High School cheer squad this year. The sponsor is Kelsey Monahan (right). (photo by Riggs Photography)

## USD 403 to hold budget hearing, meeting

The Otis-Bison USD 403 board will meet for a budget hearing and regular meeting on Tuesday, September 9 at 7:15 p.m. in the high school library.

Items on the agenda for the budget hearing will include, but not be limited to the following: Call to Order; Budget Hearing; Roll Call; Public and Board Comments; Adjournment of Hearing.

Items on the agenda for the regular meeting will include, but not be limited to the following: Call to Order; Roll Call;

Public Open Forum; Adoption of Agenda; Administrative Reports - Superintendent Report, Principal Reports; Consent Agenda - Approve Minutes-8-11-25, Treasurer Report, Accounts Payable, Activity Funds, Petty Cash Fund, KARE Membership; New Business - Building Needs and Assessments; Local Option Percentage, Approve Budget, KASB Convention & Delegate Assembly Delegate, Crisis Plan; Personnel - Classified Staff, Supplementals; Adjournment.

Otis-Bison Unified School District No. 403

-- WEEKLY ACTIVITY CALENDAR --

SEPTEMBER 2025

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

	JH VB at Otis	SCHOOL PICTURES	JH Band To State Fair	JH FB at La Crosse vs. St. John	HS FB at Home vs. South Barber	Otis-Bison/ La Crosse VB Tourn.
7	BOE Meeting 7:15 p.m.					JH VB Tourn. at Bazine CC at Pratt
		9	10	11	12	13

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## OTIS-BISON HIGH SCHOOL OTIS-BISON JUNIOR HIGH 2025 FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

(ALL DATES/TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE			
Game Time 7 p.m.			
Fri. Aug. 29	Jamboree (6 p.m.)	Tescott	
Fri. Sept. 5	Western Plains	Ransom	
Fr. Sept. 12	South Barber	Otis	
Fri. Sept. 19	Pawnee Heights	Rozel	
Sat. Sept. 27	Ashland	Ashland	
Fri. Oct. 3	Cunningham	Cunningham	
Fri. Oct. 10	Tescott PARENTS NIGHT	Otis	
Sat. Oct. 18	Ashland HOMECOMING	Otis	
Fri. Oct. 24	Chase	Chase	
Thurs. Oct. 30	TBD	TBD	
Fri. Nov. 7	Regional		
Fri. Nov. 14	Sectional		
Fri. Nov. 21	Sub-State		
Sat. Nov. 29	State		
HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE			
Tues. Aug. 26	Volleyball Jamboree	@ Otis	6:00
Sat. Aug. 30	Norton Tournament	@ Norton	9:00
Tues. Sept. 2	Stafford/Cunningham	@ Otis	4:00
Thurs. Sept. 4	Macksville/LaCrosse	@ Otis	4:00
Sat. Sept. 13	OB / LaX Tournament	@ OB/LaX	9:00
Tues. Sept. 16	Ness / Quinter	@ Otis	4:30
Mon. Sept. 22	Dighton	@ Dighton	4:00
Tues. Sept. 23	Macksville/LaCrosse	@ La Crosse	4:00
Sat. Sept. 27	Hoisington Tourn.	@ Hoisington	9:00
Tues. Sept. 30	Cent. Plains/Chase	@ Claflin	4:00
Tues. Oct. 7	Ness City/Kinsley/St. John	@ Kinsley	4:00
Sat. Oct. 11	CPL Tournament	@ Hoisington	9:00
Tues. Oct. 14	Victoria/Ellinwood PARENTS NIGHT	@ Otis	4:00
Oct. 20 / 21	Regionals		
Sat. Oct. 25	Sub-State		
Oct. 31 / Nov. 1	State		
HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE			
Sat. Sept. 6	TMP - Marian	Hays	9:00 a.m.
Sat. Sept. 13	Pratt-Skyline	Pratt	10:00 a.m.
Thurs. Sept. 18	St. John Invitational	Stafford	9:00 a.m.
Thurs. Sept. 25	Larned	Larned	4:00 p.m.
Thurs. Oct. 2	Ness City	Ness City	4:00 p.m.
Thurs. Oct. 9	Sterling	Sterling	3:30 p.m.
Thurs. Oct. 16	CPL	Meade	4:00 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 25	Regionals	TBD	TBD
Sat. Nov. 1	State	Wamego	TBD
JUNIOR HIGH FOOTBALL SCHEDULE			
Thurs. Sept. 4	Central Plains	Claflin	6:30 p.m.
Thurs. Sept. 11	St. John	La Crosse	6:30 p.m.
Thurs. Sept. 18	Ellinwood	Ellinwood	6:30 p.m.
Thurs. Sept. 25	Macksville	La Crosse	6:30 p.m.
Thurs. Oct. 2	Victoria	La Crosse	6:30 p.m.
Thurs. Oct. 9	Ness City	La Crosse	6:30 p.m.
Thurs. Oct. 16	Kinsley	Kinsley	6:30 p.m.
JUNIOR HIGH VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE			
Mon. Sept. 8	Victoria/St. John	Otis	4:00 p.m.
Sat. Sept. 13	Western Plains Tournament	Bazine	9:00 a.m.
Mon. Sept. 15	Kinsley/Ness City	Otis	4:00 p.m.
Mon. Sept. 22	Natoma	Natoma	4:00 p.m.
Mon. Sept. 29	Hoisington/Ellinwood	Hoisington	4:30 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 4	JV Tournament	Victoria	9:00 a.m.
Mon. Oct. 6	Macksville/La Crosse PARENTS NIGHT	Otis	4:00 p.m.
Mon. Oct. 13	Central Plains/Chase	Chase	4:00 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 18	CPL Tournament	Kinsley	9:00 a.m.

The Following Boosters Support The Students Of U.S.D. 395  
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