

Peterson takes helm as Tigers coach



Senior Kallie Dinius returns as a starter for the New England Tigers this season. | FILE PHOTO BY LAYN MUDDER

BY LUANN DART
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With a new head coach at the helm, the New England girls basketball team will field a young roster on the court as well.

The New England Tigers start the season Saturday, Dec. 6, by traveling to Trenton, with the first home game Tuesday, Dec. 9, against Harding County.

New England Public School named Juliana Peterson as the new head girls basketball coach.

Originally from São Paulo, Brazil, Peterson brings experience as a player and coach onto the court. She played as a youth for a club in Brazil, then played collegiate basketball at Northwest College in Wyoming and Dickinson State University, where she earned her degree in business administration.

Peterson currently serves as a paraprofessional at New England Public School and has coached elementary girls and boys basketball and junior high boys basketball for the school. She has lived in New England with her husband, Tanis, and son, Brian, for a year.

“I’m excited, but it’s a big step for me. I think I’m ready for it, because I love helping. I told my girls I’m their biggest supporter. Basketball for me is everything, and I’m able to teach them what I’ve learned. It’s al <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/news> ready a win for me,” she says.

By working within the school, she has already gotten to know the players.

“I think we have a good relationship, not just coach and player, but as school staff and a student. And I think that’s awesome, because

they feel like I can trust them and they can also trust me,” she says.

Following an appearance in the Class B volleyball state qualifying match, the Tigers step onto the court with 13 players in grades 9 through 12. Playing without any seniors last season, the Tigers return senior Kallie Dinius and add senior L’Kia Covert. The team’s lone junior, Meadow Olsonawski was named to the all-district team last year. Joining them are three sophomores and seven freshmen. Peterson will also move some eighth-graders onto the squad to fill the roster.

“I think it’ll be a fun season to watch for sure. I’m glad Kallie’s back. She’s a good athlete and a good leader, so I think she’ll do well too,” Peterson says.

“We’re really excited just to have fun this year and just to enjoy what we’re doing and work hard to get better as the season goes on. I think we’re excited to play together and to watch the younger girls get better,” Dinius says. “I think we’re super quick. We’re a super small, quick team, so I’m excited. I think we’ll be able to run on a lot of teams. We’ll be good defensively and we’ll be able to run the floor.”

Peterson hopes to capitalize on the team’s quickness on both sides of the court.

“We are trying to rebuild our defense. And since we are short this year, we don’t have that many tall girls, I want us to be quick,” she says. “I think it’s going to be a good year to learn.”

Last season, the New England girls basketball team ended the season with a 5-15 overall record

Branigan Robinson returns as assistant coach, along with Jaden Schoch.

Aging in Community project expands

Aging in Community (AIC), the North Dakota State University Extension program focused on enhancing the lives of older adults, is beginning a new chapter of its initiative.

Phase II began on July 1 and involves expanding AIC from two pilot programs in Lisbon and western Morton County to 10 additional counties.

The AIC project is a model of community support designed to prevent or delay the relocation of older adults from their rural town. Program staff, along with the help of volunteers, support the older adults by providing transportation, food and nutrition classes, fall prevention education, technology assistance and more.

The program began in 2021, supported in part by a four-year grant from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, and has since received another grant from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies to continue the work.

The AIC service area has expanded to the following counties: Slope, Hettinger, Grant, Bowman and Adams counties in the southwest, and Emmons, Logan, LaMoure, McIntosh and Dickey counties in the southeast.

Jane Strommen, director of the AIC program, says this expansion will help provide more services to address the most pressing needs of these rural counties that fit within the aging-in-place framework.

“We’re not a home health agency,” says Strommen, “but we can help people with their finances, social connections, transportation, housing, and health and wellness.”

With a larger service area comes more responsibilities. The program may delegate duties on a part-time position or contractual service basis.

“For a while, I’ve been

asked about expanding from all over the state,” says Strommen. “Scaling up to reach as many people as possible takes strategic planning.”

Program leaders aim to engage with community members, NDSU Extension county staff and local leaders to provide resources to older people in small communities.

To kick off Phase II, area coordinators will connect with stakeholders in the expansion counties about the greatest needs of older adults wishing to stay in their communities. NDSU Extension’s leadership and civic engagement agents will help guide the needs assessment.

One of the focuses of this phase is to learn how this program provides value by delaying or preventing expenditures such as Medicaid.

Kyla Sanders, area program coordinator since fall 2021, says this expansion is a great asset for her service area in southwest North Dakota, where there are fewer than six people per square mile. She was previously the coordinator for western Morton County before her service area grew.

“Our rural North Dakota landscape isn’t getting any younger,” says Sanders. “It’s great to be able to reach more folks, because the need

is there.”

Sanders says one thing she has learned, and will focus on more in this role, is the difficulty of navigating Medicare.

She is proud of her work bridging access to heating and housing assistance, and sees progress in the establishment of a new food pantry.

Even though some of these procedures can be transferred to other parts of the state, Strommen says the next steps are to continue

spending time in these towns, promoting the program and gathering key information about the communities’ unique situations.

“If you are a person who would like to help older adults connect with local resources, programs and support, we would love to have you as a volunteer,” adds Sanders.

For more information about AIC, visit ndsu.ag/ndsuAIC.

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North Dakota State University requests building contractors for construction services of a post or steel frame storage building in Dickinson, ND.

Interested firms may receive bid submittal instructions by contacting the NDSU Dickinson REC Director by the following methods:

Telephone: 701-265-2473
Email: chris.augustin@ndsu.edu

Questions regarding the building plans are to be directed to the DREC Director, Chris Augustin.

Submittal of bid deadline is 1:00 p.m. MST December 19, 2025, at the NDSU DREC, 1041 State Avenue, Dickinson, ND 58601.

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