

FOX VALLEY HAWKS HOCKEY



# SENIOR *Night*



FIVE SCHOOLS...ONE TEAM!

JANUARY 26, 2025

## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Seniors,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the coaching staff, I thank you all for the hard work and dedication that you have all shown throughout your time as Hawks. It has been a privilege to share this time with you and watch you each grow from boys to young men. Throughout your time as Hawks, you have faced adversity and achieved success on the ice. By balancing the many commitments in your lives, you have prepared yourselves well for the challenges you will face in the future. Hard work, dedication, teamwork, and discipline are the foundation of success on the ice and these same principles will lead to continued success in life.

Take time to reflect on the countless memories made and lessons learned. Take pride in your accomplishments and all the work you put in over the years. Appreciate, the contribution of your support system, parents, extended families, friends, coaches, managers, and supporters, who volunteered countless hours, drove thousands of miles, and financed this journey from your first, tentative, step onto the ice to today. Most importantly, thank your mom.

Senior parents, thank you all for being a part of the Hawks family and for sharing your sons with us.

Best of luck to our seniors in their future endeavors! We look forward to seeing you all at next year's Alumni Game!

Scott Bjornstrom

President, Fox Valley Hawks Hockey Club



## 2024-2025 FOX VALLEY HAWKS SENIORS

57	Davin Birkett	F	JV	St Charles North
8	Easton Carriere	D	JV	Kaneland
95	Lukas Eastman	D	Varsity	St Charles North
74	Dallas Hermann	F	Varsity	St Charles East
81	Kellen Lorenz	D	Varsity	Batavia
91	Marston Mott	G	Varsity	Geneva
7	Gavin Newell	F	Varsity	St Charles East
32	Taylor Noll	F	Varsity	Geneva
41	Xavier Othon	F	Varsity	St Charles North
9	William Sanchez	F	Varsity	St Charles East
97	Matthew Scarpelli	F	Varsity	St Charles North
67	Jon Schnite	F	Varsity	St Charles East
79	Mason Smith	D	Varsity	St Charles North
72	Riaan Wiese	F	Varsity	St Charles East
56	John Willey	D	Varsity	St Charles East
75	Nolan Zimmeroff	F	Varsity	Batavia
3	Chase Zombo	F	Varsity	Geneva



Davin loves sports, especially hockey. He'll talk your ear off. In detail. With the statistics of the teams and their players. When he attended a friend's birthday party that was a hockey skating party his love of hockey began. Davin started learn-to-skate classes at age 7, and after speeding through classes and in-house hockey, he wanted to try travel.



At the Leafs, Davin played with a core group of friends each year, through several seasons, tournaments and summer hockey, where they three-peated as Moose Jaw hockey summer league champs on team Danger Zone (code name Viper). He played travel with the Leafs before deciding to join the Hawks the spring of his freshman year. Hockey has taught Davin teamwork, organization, self-confidence, self-restraint, to gracefully accept defeat and how to graciously revel in a win.

The last few years on the Hawks, Davin has grown as a player, learning to become less of a “general” on the ice and accepting that he can rely on his teammates to do their jobs so he can do his. He's proud to have earned his position as Captain of his final high school hockey team.

After graduating from St. Charles North, he plans to attend Northern Illinois University, where he will be studying Sports Management (of course).

*“Birky is a passionate player who gives it his all every time he steps on the ice. His attention to detail and focus on doing the little things right, makes him one of those players that sometimes goes underrecognized and doesn't always get the credit he deserves. But his maturity and ability to embrace that and motivate himself to work harder have made him a great captain of the JV team this season.” - Coach Steve*

Easton began his hockey journey in the first grade, inspired by the Chicago Blackhawks' thrilling 2013 Stanley Cup victory. His passion for the sport has been unwavering since those early days, and he has spent his entire career at the Fox Valley Ice Arena. Starting with the Cyclones, Easton demonstrated his dedication and skill on the ice, and by his freshman year of high school, he had proudly become a Fox Valley Hawk.



Throughout all four years at Kaneland High School, Easton has been a standout member of the Fox Valley Hawks, consistently showcasing his talent, sportsmanship, and leadership. His commitment to the team and the game has been nothing short of exemplary, earning him the respect and admiration of his coaches, teammates, and fans.

As he prepares to graduate from Kaneland High School, Easton is setting his sights on a new and equally commendable goal: becoming a firefighter. He has already taken significant steps toward this career, having completed two years of firefighter training at the Fox Valley Career Center.

We are incredibly proud of Easton and all he has achieved both on and off the ice. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors and know that his determination and dedication will lead him to great success.

*"Easton is one of those types of players that every coach needs...a good old-fashioned defenseman that doesn't need to make it look pretty to get the job done. Easton is a gritty, resilient player that excels in 1-on-1 situations and disrupting plays in our defensive zone. In addition, he has been a great teammate over the last four years."- Coach Steve*

Lukas learned how to skate when he was four years old at the Fox Valley Ice Arena. From there, he started playing for the Cyclone's when he was a Mite. He played as a Squirt and first year Pee wee, and in the Spring of 2019 he left to play for the West Dundee Leafs.



Lukas is currently double rostered playing both for the Fox Valley Hawks Varsity as well as the West Dundee Leafs. The coaching staff at the Fox Valley Hawks has been instrumental in helping Lukas grow as a player, emphasizing skill development, sportsmanship, and the importance of a positive team environment.

He plans on trying out for lacrosse in the Spring with his younger brother Blake. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends. Following graduation, Lukas plans on studying Business at either Michigan State or University of Iowa. (Accepted to both but currently undecided)

Hockey has taught Luke to cooperate with others, work well as a team, develop empathy and respect, and it has helped him develop a strong sense of self.

*“Lucas has worked hard to improve his game throughout the season with excellent defensive positioning, 1 on 1 coverage and skating speed. He has great attitude and team spirit that is consistently noticed and appreciated by both coaches & teammates.”- Coach Phil*

12 years ago, you asked to try two sports. Lacrosse on the grass and Hockey on the ice. Your skills as a defensive long pole developed beyond that of your winger ability on the ice. However, it was clear that both sports benefited from the other. Your love of hockey will always be stronger. We have loved watching you play and development as a young man.



You have won championships on the grass and on the ice. With Dad as coach and without. We have yelled for you and at you. From stinky equipment on the floor, in the bathtub, or properly hung up and sprayed...it still stinks.

We have watched you grow from the pond to skate school, to in house Cyclones, to travel Cyclones, to the Fox Valley Hawks and hopefully as a Volunteer. You learned to place yourself where needed to help your team. Avoiding hits seemed to be a special skill but when someone hit a teammate, and you didn't like it, you made them pay.

We love the young man you have grown into. Keep growing and look for those opportunities to develop as a leader. We all love you and will cry a little as this chapter closes. Make us proud and live your life to the fullest!

Love- Mom, Dad & Zoe

*"Dally had a great attitude when it came to hockey and playing for the Hawks. He always wanted to do well and help the team do better every shift. He did like to converse with the coaches and teammates, which helped lighten the mood in many situations." Coach Phil*

Kellen's passion for hockey began after watching his cousin skate. He quickly fell in love with the sport and joined the Sabers Mighty Mite program at 7 years old. His mite season was particularly memorable as they won their league Stanley Cup, solidifying his commitment to the game.

He continued to develop his skills with the Sabres through Pee Wee. He later transitioned to the Cyclones during his Bantam years. Every level of play from the NWHL - NIHL – CSDHL has taught him something along the way that has defined him as the player/person that he is today.



Kellen was excited to join the Fox Valley Hawks as a freshman and has played with the Hawks for his entire high school career. He has had the privilege to be on some great teams with even better teammates, creating friendships that will last a lifetime. While his senior year was cut short due to injury, he appreciates the support from his teammates and coaches.

While a couple of big memories stand out, such as making it to the NIHL championship game as a squirt and taking part in the incredible opportunity to play at Yost Ice Arena, it's the small hockey moments that add up. Early morning practices, holiday tournaments, hanging at the hotels playing shinny and just being on the ice with his friends are the moments that Kellen will remember. If there was ice time available he was there. Hockey played a major role in Kellen's definitive moments growing up. He has been lucky enough to work with amazing coaches and teammates who have helped shape who he is as a person. We could not be prouder of his hard work and the dedication to the sport of hockey and to his team.

After graduation, Kellen plans to continue to play hockey and to pursue a degree in Fire Science.

*"Rezo was one of our best defensemen last season and started out as our #1 D in the fall. Although he continues to be a great teammate, we lost his puck handling, shooting and defensive skills after a season ending injury prevented him from finishing what started out as a great year." - Coach Phil*



Marston began his hockey career with the Fox Valley Ice Arena learn to skate program when he was just four years old. He moved on to the Cyclones travel prep program when he was six. Driven by his desire to avoid skating, and playing NHL15, he quickly found his place on the ice, standing between the pipes. He attended goalie camp at Heartland Hockey Camp in Minnesota, where he had the opportunity to spend several weeks, learning from NHL veterans and competing with peers from the USA and Canada.



After joining the Fox Valley Hawks as a freshman, Marston knew he had made the right decision. He was impressed by the camaraderie of the club and its commitment to playing competitive hockey. He has played at every level as a Hawk, from JV to Varsity. The years of hard work and dedication are paying off in his final year with the team headed to the playoffs and his selection as a league All-Star.

Through hockey, Marston has learned the value of discipline and hard work. He has experienced the lowest lows and the highest highs. He has been knocked down but learned that he has the strength to get back up, brush himself off, and keep fighting. Lessons learned on the ice have defined his character and prepared him for future success.

Marston is looking forward to playing club hockey in college. He hasn't decided on a school yet but plans to study engineering. He is especially thankful for his teammates from around the Fox Valley. He would also like to thank his family and the many coaches, especially Coach Garvey, who supported him along the way.

*“‘Mottsy’— has been a 4-year Hawk. Each season, Marston has taken on greater challenges and exponentially grown as a player. His growth culminated this season as the league’s #1 rated goalie and a berth in the All-Star game. He’s always been very coachable and applies coaching right away. Marston has a cool, laid-back approach to his game...always even keeled. His 4 years of dedication and hard work have paid off.” – Coach Pete*

From the moment Gavin first stepped onto the ice at just six years old in a “Learn to Skate” class, his passion for hockey was undeniable. The Fox Valley Ice Arena quickly became his second home, where he developed his skills, first with the Cyclones as a Mite and later with the Fox Valley Hawks, culminating his high school hockey career.



As a Center, Gavin is renowned for his tenacious "bulldog" playing style, unwavering selflessness, and team-first mentality. Whether setting up his teammates with well-timed passes or boosting morale with his positive attitude, Gavin exemplified what it means to be a team player. His leadership qualities earned him the Captain's role for the Hawks JV team during his junior year, along with two All-Star selections during his Hawks tenure. Among his many achievements, being named the 2019 Cyclones Player of the Year remains a standout moment in his hockey journey.

Beyond the game, hockey has gifted Gavin lifelong friendships, invaluable life lessons, and countless cherished memories. He's profoundly grateful for the support and guidance of his coaches and extended hockey family throughout the years.

Gavin's parents are incredibly proud of the man he's become, both on and off the ice, and will always be his biggest fans. This fall, Gavin will be attending the University of Tennessee to study Business.

*"Few players exhibit hard work and character quite like Gavin Newell. Over the last four seasons, he has consistently been one of the most impactful leaders in our club, starting with JV3 his freshmen year and culminating with Varsity as a Senior. As JV captain his junior year, Gavin helped lead the team to a nearly undefeated season. And as a senior is one of the leading scorers in his first year on Varsity!" - Coach Steve*

Taylor began playing hockey at 4 years old as part of the Little Blackhawk's program in Champaign, IL. His favorite player growing up was Patrick Kane on the Blackhawks and still is to this day.

Taylor played club travel hockey as a mite and squirt for the San Antonio Jr. Rampage and continued on with the Geneva Cyclones CS hockey club until Freshman year when he joined the Fox Valley Hawks High School hockey team.



He remains proud and honored that he attended all 4-years of his high school career as a Fox Valley Hawk. He values the coaches, friends and teammates that he has played with for so many years.

After high school, Taylor plans to pursue a career in aviation in college and as a commercial pilot for the airlines.

*“Taylor probably made the biggest change to his game to learn the Hawks system. Taylor always gave his best and expected it from his teammates. He really cared about how the team did and wanted to share his input about the team and wanted the entire team to succeed.” - Coach Phil*

Thank you for this opportunity to share some of our thoughts about Xavier (AKA X) and we never thought he would be lucky enough to be nicknamed after “Speed Racers” secret brother.

Xavier has five siblings who are all very much involved in sports. Four of them including X played hockey.

Xavier started at the age of three and has never stopped playing. Of course, as parents it is natural to worry about “burn out” but that concern went away many years ago. As it became clear his love of the sport combined with the long-term friendships and camaraderie’s he has enjoyed and will continue to enjoy are priceless.



Time truly does fly by and it is hard to believe all of the skaters are now seniors. The boys have played on several teams with each other and against but the true blessing is the bond they all share together on and off the ice.

We humbly thank Xaviers coaches: Phil, Steve, Mark, Chris and Pete. All of you guys truly were and are a major impact on Xavier as a player but more importantly as a young man. Thank you,

*“X had a special talent when it came to hockey. He always wanted the team to do best and then worried about himself. He brought his team mates to another level, which was a good thing and always tried to do what's best for team. He definitely had a knowledge of the game for every position.” - Coach Phil*

Will's love for hockey started at the age of Eight. He received 2 pair of roller blades for Christmas and decided to trade one in for a hockey helmet to play roller hockey at the YMCA with a friend.

His desire to play quickly transitioned into ice hockey. He took classes at All Seasons one summer and was hooked. Will then joined the Jr Cyclones at Fox Valley where he met his first ice hockey buddy, who is still a teammate today. Will would often play both ice and roller hockey games on the same day, only to spend more time on the backyard rink. With his love of hockey growing the next step was travel hockey.



Will joined the Cyclones as a squirt, playing forward and defense, learning both sides of the game. He loved traveling for all the tournaments, bonding with his teammates, many of those teammates are current and past members of the Hawks. The obvious choice was to join the Hawks with his friends. Will has played 4 years with the Hawks moving up from JV to Varsity. He enjoys the high school atmosphere at Fox Valley, particularly during his first year on varsity. The stands were packed with students/friends and the place was nuts.

Outside of the rink, Will has represented St Charles East HS playing on the varsity golf and lacrosse teams. Will is looking forward to attending North Central College where he will be playing lacrosse and studying Business Marketing.

*"Will is one of those unique players that every team needs. A colorful personality that brings the locker room together while also producing on the ice. He is one of the few players that truly recognizes and embraces his strengths to be the most impactful player he can be. It is this commitment to playing his game that has Will tied as the leading goal scorer on Varsity this season." - Coach Steve*

From the moment Matthew laced up his first skates at age five, hockey became part of his identity. Back then, he was a tiny kid wobbling across the ice, with more falls than strides. Little did we know those early mornings at the rink would turn into a lifetime of memories, laughter, and maybe a few tears (mostly ours when the alarm went off at 5 a.m.).



Matthew's hockey journey included playing for two clubs before joining the Fox Valley Hawks his sophomore year.

Over the years, he's grown from the kid who thought offense meant skating as fast as he could toward the goal to a smart, skilled, and determined forward. Hockey has taught him discipline, teamwork, and the value of hard work. It's also given him lifelong friendships and given us lessons in driving through blizzards, dealing with smelly gear, and perfecting our understanding that it's just a game.

Now, as a senior on the Hawks, Matthew is not just our favorite player—he's a leader, a teammate, and a young man we're incredibly proud of. With college acceptance letters in hand, he's still undecided about playing club hockey, but one thing is certain: hockey will always be part of his story.

- Mom, Dad, and Joe

*"Scarps worked hard and it showed, as he knew what it meant to be a Hawk. He improved his game, earned the respect of coaches and players being a 2-year alternate captain and always was open to conversations with the coaches about whatever was on his mind and the team. He wanted what was best for the team." - Coach Phil*

Jon started Playing Hockey when he was 8. He played with the Cyclones in the NIHL program until his freshman year when he started playing for the Hawks.



He made Varsity his Junior year but tore the Labrum in his shoulder playing lacrosse and missed most of this year. He rehabbed hard and was able to come back a month early and really valued the time he had playing this year.

Jon has been accepted to a few schools, hasn't decided which one he will attend but will major in business management.

*"Jon had a very positive attitude anytime he was at the rink and it became contagious in a good way for his team. He always wanted the team to do well and would always ask question to understand what he should be working on. The team biggest cheer was for Jon's first goal of the season at Notre Dame."- Coach Phil*

Mason began his hockey career at the age of 5 in Denver, CO, where he first played with the Littleton Hawks. From his initial faceplant to his first stride, Mason was immediately hooked on the sport.



After moving to St. Charles, IL, at age 7, Mason continued his hockey career with the Geneva Cyclones. While he played any position the coaches assigned, he always fancied himself a centerman. Over the years, Mason played at various levels with the Cyclones, including NWHL, NIHL, and Central States teams. After six seasons, Mason transitioned to the Chicago Bruins U14 Central States Major Team. In his sophomore year, Mason joined the FV Hawks Varsity team and has been a three-year starter on defense, though he still considers himself a true forward at heart.

Outside of hockey, Mason achieved his Black Belt in Karate at age 15 and participated in St. Charles North High School's Wind Ensemble band. He also enjoys spending time with friends, often playing Fortnite. Looking ahead, Mason plans to attend college and pursue a career as a neurologist, combining his passion for science and helping others.

*"As one of our top defensemen for the last few seasons, Smitty has been a leader and key player on both critical situations and power plays. He has also been versatile and able to pitch in at forward as needed. His passion for the game and leadership will be greatly missed next year." - Coach Phil*



Riaan started his hockey journey with Fox Valley's learn-to-skate at 4 years old – moving on to the Cyclone Mites playing defense for some of his favorite coaches, Coach Ryan and Coach Tom. He was competitive and determined, earning a Central States spot during his Squirt year. He loved playing with his friends. Though we are not sure what he loved more, playing the game on the ice or playing shinny in the hotel hallways during tournaments. Winning the Nation's Cup in



Detroit with his Squirt team and having his older cousins and gramma there to watch was a definite highlight. Riaan moved to the Leafs and played Central States for several more years and expanded his experience and friendships. It was here that he was asked to step-in and play forward becoming a solid two-way player. Riaan double-rostered his Sophomore year with the Leafs and Fox Valley Hawks, and ultimately decided that the Hawks was where he wanted to finish his youth hockey experience. He's had a blast these past three years.

To this day, some of his closest friends are his hockey buddies. While they haven't always found themselves on the same team, these are the kids that play 3v3 summer league and find themselves for hours on a winter night at the Langum outdoor ice rink. We feel fortunate for all the friendships, memories and life-lessons that hockey brought to our family. Riaan will be attending the University of North Dakota in the Fall for Commercial Aviation/Aviation Management. He's looking forward to rooting for the Division 1 UND Fighting Hawks and will be playing hockey - either for the club team, intramurals or out on a frozen North Dakota pond (or maybe all three). We are extremely proud of him.

*"Riaan changed his position his senior year, which is not an easy thing to do. He knew we were doing what was best for the team and in his first couple games as a forward scored some big goals for the team. Riaan brought an excitement to the game and team."* - Coach Phil

John Willey's hockey journey began at age four with skating lessons, though it wasn't until he picked up a hockey stick that things clicked. He started youth hockey at All Seasons in an In-House League; this is where he grew his passion for the game.



His next step took him to the Sabres Silver Mites, where he learned to lift the puck and accepted that his dream of being a goalie was not in the cards. I don't think he appreciated the obnoxious cow bell the other team's parents were ringing every time he was scored on. John then joined the Geneva Cyclones, where he found his place on defense and never looked back.

He experienced two NIHL league championships, a President's Cup win, and a long, unforgettable run in the Blackhawks Tournament. Through travel to cities like Las Vegas and Nashville, he honed his hockey and shinney skills and made lifelong friends.

As a high schooler, John joined the Fox Valley Hawks, earning an Assistant Captain role on the JV team and playing in an All-Star Game. His experience with the Hawks was the best; and he's excited for a deep varsity playoff run. John hopes to continue playing hockey while studying mechanical engineering in college.

*"There's nobody at FV Hawks who has characterized "growth" quite like John. He started his freshmen year on our JV3 team as the smallest player in our entire club, and has grown into being one of the biggest, most physical, and most dependable defensemen on Varsity this season. In addition, his great attitude and calm demeanor made him a great assistant captain of the JV team his Junior year."- Coach Steve*

Nolan's path to the Hawks Varsity team was a bit unusual. He was an avid baseball player when he was the age that most kids start playing club hockey. So he focused on travel baseball and never did join a hockey club. But Hockey was always one of his favorite things to do outside of baseball, so he took hockey skating lessons at Fox Valley, and eventually moved into the Junior Cyclones house league where he soon realized he was one of their better players. He spent weekends going to stick and puck with one of his friends and learned a lot there as well.



When he started high school, he decided to give the Hawks a try. Since then, he has learned quickly and worked hard, moving up from the 3rd JV team to the 2nd to the 1st and finally the Varsity Team his Senior year. He has truly had the complete Hawks experience!

Nolan has now been offered a spot on the Eastern Kentucky University hockey team and plans to go there to study business in the fall.

He wants to thank the Hawks coaches – especially Coach Steve – for all the encouragement and hockey education he has been given since he came to the program.

*“Jimmy has been a great role player on his teams over the last four seasons with the FV Hawks. He’s another player who started on our JV3 team as a freshman that has made a significant impact on Varsity this year. His hard work, aggressive forechecking and gritty play style has made him one of the best penalty killers on the team this season.”- Coach Steve*

Chase has a deep passion for the game of hockey, which is rooted in his family, his Uncle Rick who played in the NHL from 1984-1996 (Detroit Red Wings, St Louis Blues and Boston Bruins) and his dad who went to the Canadian OHL London Knights Junior hockey team.

Chase began playing hockey as a Geneva Cyclones Mite at the age of 5 and continued thru Pee-wee. Chase continued his hockey career with the Northwest Charges as a Bantam Minor CS. Chase moved on to Chicago Young Americans (CYA) AAA as a 2nd year Bantam Minor. Chase wanted to play HS hockey with Fox Valley Hawks and has enjoyed it for 4 seasons. His freshman year Chase double rostered on FVH JV and Varsity. He got to play with his older brother Nick on the Varsity team, which was an awesome opportunity, Chase's sophomore year he was the youngest player to be a varsity assistant captain and his Junior and Senior years as the varsity captain.

Chase strives to constantly improve and develop as a player and team leader. In Chase's free time he loves to snowmobile, fish and spend time in northern Wisconsin. Chase has been working for Covenant Living for 2 years in food service to senior citizens. We are so proud of Chase's athletic, employment and academic accomplishments. We are also so grateful for the life lessons, friendships, discipline, and memories that the game of hockey has brought us.

Chase's future plans are to enter a trade, he like's carpentry and hopes to own his own construction business. Chase never wants to stop playing hockey. Ever since he first stepped onto the ice that's all he's ever wanted to do. Hockey is therapeutic for him and he is truly thankful for all the friends that he has met along the way and would not trade it for anything.



*"Chase was a deserving 2-year captain. He earned the respect of his teammates and coaches. He was always open to conversations with the coaches about his play and the play of the team. He played the game at 100% and cared about the success of the team. He elevated the players around him with his play."- Coach Phil*

# *Save the Date*



**Fox Valley Hawks End of Season Banquet**

**Riverside Receptions in Geneva**

**Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**5PM-9PM**

*\*More Details Coming Soon*

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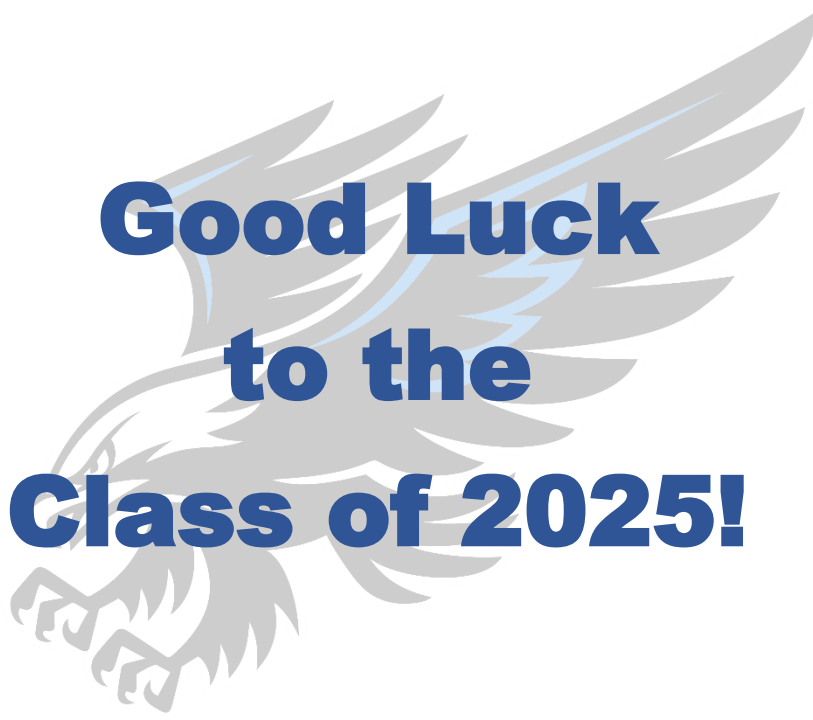
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In addition to celebrating our senior players, we would to thank our outgoing senior Board Members. The membership of the Fox Valley Hawks appreciates your countless hours of time and dedication to the success of the club.

Scott Bjornstrom, President  
Marla Zombo, Vice President  
Lindsay Hermann, Treasurer  
Megan Bjornstrom, Secretary  
Kevin Hermann, Rules & Ethics





**Good Luck  
to the  
Class of 2025!**