

# The Ames Tribune

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## Ames to count on solid front liners

By: Jeff Stell

The 10th-ranked Ames High girls soccer team is hoping to reload, not rebuild.

The Little Cyclones lost several key components from last year's team that reached the Class 2A state semifinals. They lost forward Beth Bystrom, their entire midfield, defenders Sarah Brimeyer and Jayne Strand and keeper Meghan Hackerson.

Still, the cupboard isn't exactly bare for a run at a third-straight trip to state tournament. Veteran senior forward Joanna Eggert returns, as do senior defenders Kylie Drzycimski and Amanda Mayberry.

The Little Cyclones' season opener is tonight against Newton at Ames High Stadium, weather permitting.

"We lost so many people but when tryouts started, I just saw that there were so much skill in the younger players, and they really stepped it up to the varsity level," Eggert said.

"We have high aspirations for what we can do. We've really come together as a team and have been working so hard. We're all excited for our first game and to get the season going."

The Little Cyclones have needs to address in the midfield and defense but up front the forward spots look to be in good hands with Eggert and junior Ana Michelini. Michelini got a lot of playing time off the bench last year, spelling Bystrom and Eggert.

Ames coach Kenny Graham feels his forward tandem is as good as any around.

"(Eggert and Michelini) both have speed and are good with the ball," Graham said. "They both have a hard shot. Ana's just a fantastic ballhandler; she'll be exciting. The question for us is: can we get them the ball in a good spot? That will be the task."

Taking over midfield spots are Andrea Metzger, Mackenzie Dickson, Emma Rathe and Hannah Van Every. Metzger and Dickson will be in the middle with Van Every and Rathe outside.

The new keeper is 5-foot-9 junior Angela Linahon.

"(Linahon) has good size," Graham said. "I think everybody's been impressed with her bravery; her getting to the ball; her coming out early. Tradition here recently has been good keepers one after another, and I think Angela is going to step right in."

If tonight's game isn't postponed, the Little Cyclones actually will get to be outside playing on grass for a change after being stuck in the high school gym lately.

"It's kind of a bummer having to be inside because the feel of the ball is a lot different; it moves a lot faster because the surface is flat," Eggert said. "We can't wear our cleats. It's kind of hard to spread out because it's such a tight space. We've been making due with it."

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### Ames schedule

April 1 - Newton

April 11 - at Urbandale

April 14 - at Indianola

April 18 - Nevada

April 21 - Des Moines Roosevelt

April 24 - at Mason City

May 1 - at West Des Moines Valley

May 5 - Des Moines East  
May 8 - Fort Dodge  
May 10 - at Urbandale Tournament  
May 12 - Waukee  
May 15 - Marshalltown  
May 16 - at Southeast Polk

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