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Media Release

From: Mike Beaton, Activities Coordinator, Fargo South High School

RE: Gymnastics Coach Hire

Date: July 11, 2025

The Fargo Public Schools has named **Ms. Madeline Vetsch and Mr. Mike Merritt** as co-head gymnastics coaches for the Fargo Public Schools gymnastics team for the 2025-2026 school year.

Ms. Vetsch and Mr. Merritt will replace **Ms. Jeni Dahl** who served as the head coach for the 2024-2025 season and had been an assistant coach with the Fargo gymnastics program since 2021.

Prior to moving to Fargo, **Ms. Vetsch** served as a competitive gymnastics coach for Wildcard Gymnastics in Brookfield, Wisconsin, TNT Gymnastics in Richland Center/Mauston, Wisconsin, and EXA Sports in Eau Claire/Menomonie, Wisconsin. She graduated with a degree in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and is pursuing a Master’s Degree in Biokinematics.

Mr. Merritt has extensive high school coaching experience in Fargo. He served as the head gymnastics coach for the Fargo high school programs from 1985 until 2015. He was the head girls track and field coach from 2004 to 2017 and the head girls’ cross-country coach from 2014 to 2015 at Fargo South. He also assisted with boys’ track and field from 1999 to 2003 and boys’ cross-country from 2011 to 2013. He served as physical education teacher in the Fargo Public Schools prior to retiring in 2013.

Fargo South High School Activities Coordinator Mike Beaton states “**Mr. Merritt’s** experiences as a head coach will be invaluable to the Fargo team. He brings a wealth of knowledge about the sport and an understanding of the tradition in his return to the program. **Ms. Vetsch’s** competitive coaching experience and enthusiasm for the sport will be an asset to our student-athletes. Both coaches are committed to coaching the athletes to be the best gymnasts and people they can be. We are fortunate to get both **Mr. Merritt** and **Ms. Vetsch** to lead our gymnastics program.”

If you have further questions about the hiring of Ms. Vetsch and Mr. Merritt, please call me at 446.2006 or email me at beatonm@fargoschools.org.