

Covid and Fall Sports: Doing what keeps the teams competing

by Paige Winter

If you've been to a football game, volleyball game, or cross country meet this year you have seen all of our Wildcat fall athletes working hard out on the court, field, or course. What you may not have noticed is some of the changes our athletes and coaches have had to make to be able to keep competing this fall. We all know a lot has changed because of the Coronavirus, but today let's talk about how it has affected all of our wildcat athletes.

Though the dance team has been preparing all summer for their yearly state dance competition, this year because of the virus they will not be able to attend the competition. Still, the dance team is working hard this season to prepare for basketball games and they already performed at some of our home football games. Kendra Hillers stated that she felt bad for seniors Annisten Trenkamp and Allie Dunn who have put in so much time and effort and don't get to take the team to state during their last year. Though the dance team doesn't have state to work towards this year, they are still working hard to prepare for their season. Kendra Hillers also commented that this year she has been living by

the Dance Team motto, "Alright." She said, "We came up with that because we never know what is going to happen next and there is nothing we can do. We just have to take the punches."

This virus has affected everyone and every sport differently.

Cross country may be the sport where the changes seem less noticeable. Spectators are often required to wear masks, and the state meet has now been moved to two days and an additional I-A state qualifying meet has been added. Several meets have had fewer teams invited to limit the number of athletes competing.

While some of the cross country runners mentioned that nothing has really changed for them during practices or meets, for the volleyball girls there has been a tremendous amount of changes to their season. Normally, they would have been preparing all summer; however because the virus kept our athletes out of the gym this summer that preparation time was cut short. It has also separated the team more than usual because the fresh/soph team has to practice separate from the jv/varsity team there isn't as many opportunities for team bonding since there is almost no interaction between the teams during practice. Amaya Hunt mentioned that she felt all these changes were just inconvenient. "All we want to do is play volleyball." She also said that the team is trying to not take anything for granted this year as, "we truly don't know if it'll be the last time we step on the court together as a team, or if the game we just played was our last." These certainly are uncertain times for all our athletes, we never know when the opportunity to compete may be taken away. Balls are now switched out and disinfected when there's a change in server. Teams do not switch sides of the net. As the athletes did in softball, the teams do not slap hands at the end of the game; they wave to one another.

Taking a look at the MV football season, Mr. Arnold has said that the team is



Krista Ries and Taya Tucker use some hand sanitizer before a game.

doing well and has managed to avoid any major health issues. Changes to the football season include just taking more time to clean and disinfect everything during practices and games. Helmets, pads, and footballs all have to be cleaned daily. The JV and varsity teams were also practicing separated for a time. However, Coach Arnold also mentioned that some of these changes have worked in the team's favor: "Shorter practices with fewer people in each group still means you get more reps during practice." Still, he commented that the extra time for planning, cleaning, and prepping can wear on a coach because you have to think more: "You don't want to make a mistake that causes an issue that leads to the team not being able to practice and compete."

However even with all of these alterations to our fall sports seasons, our MV fall athletes are still working hard. In the wise words of Mr. Arnold, "All the extra stuff is worth it as long as we keep getting Friday nights."

Hopefully all of us here at MV can continue to get the opportunity to compete in what we love to do. So make sure to give our Wildcat fall athletes a high five and wish them good luck for the rest of the season.



Freshmen Livia Hermanson and Haley Ronnebaum sanitize the balls between plays during a varsity game.

Sports Connection

Two more wins, Whittenbaugh reaches milestone

by Tara Goedken

It was a week of conference match ups and changing lineups due to some Covid quarantining, but the Wildcats proved they were one of the top teams in the conference by adding two more wins to their record.

Last Thursday night, the Wildcat Ladies played against the Alburnett Pirates ending the night with a 3-0 win with scores of 25-22, 25-23, and 25-18.

Emerson Whittenbaugh led in kills with 18 followed by Taya Tucker with 9 kills. Kennedy Rausch led in assists with a total of 29 assists. Ella Imler led in serves with a total of 15 serves followed by Avery Krapfl and Rausch with 12 serves each.

On defense, Imler led in digs with a total of 23 digs and Whittenbaugh followed behind with 19 digs. On Thursday night, Whittenbaugh hit 1,000 digs in her high school career. Whittenbaugh and Tucker led in blocks with 3 blocks each, while Krista Ries followed closely behind

with 2 blocks.

Tuesday night the Wildcats traveled to Central City ended the night with a 3-0 win with scores of 25-23, 25-20, and 25-22.

Whittenbaugh once again led in kills with 21. Beaman had nine, and Ries had five. Rausch had 33 assists.

MV had four solo blocks for the night: Ries with two, Whittenbaugh with one and Haley Ronnebaum with one. Imler had 24 digs followed by Whittenbaugh with 20.

Some players who moved up to varsity to cover for quarantining athletes made a big impact at the serving line. Rausch served 14 for 14. Anna Deutmeyer went 15 for 15 with three aces. Whittenbaugh went 7 for seven serving with one ace.

Last night the Wildcats hosted East Buchanan. Details will be in next week's issue.



Senior Emerson Whittenbaugh earned her 1000th dig last week against Alburnett. She's pictured with her coaches. (photo by Lesa Parmely)

MV battles in close one with Pirates

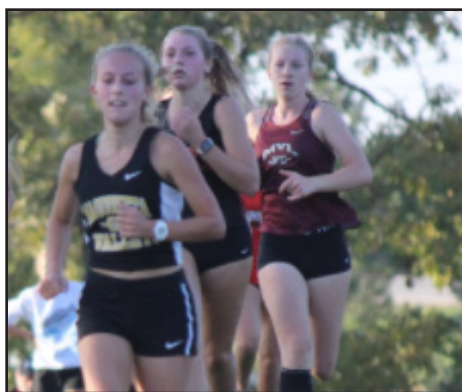
Cross country runners keep making their mark

by Chantel Crowley

On Tuesday, October 6th, the Wildcat cross country team participated in the West Delaware Hawks Invitational at the Hart Ridge Golf Course in Manchester.

The varsity boys placed 7th overall with an average time of 18:31.3. Nolan Ries was ninth with a time of 17:27.8, and Cy Huber was behind him in 12th with a time of 17:34.6. Michael Schaul was next in 36th with a time of 18:34.7, Mitch Heims in 55th with a time of 19:07.6, Landin Frasher in 72nd with a time of 19:51.7, Brock Trenkamp in 86th with a time of 20:23.3, and Toby Grimm in 87th with a time of 20:26.9.

The junior varsity girls competed with a small team. Emma Doyle led the girls in 20th with a time of 25:11.0, then Allison Hogan in 61st with a time of 28:11.1 and Zari Ambundo right behind in 62nd with a time of 28:14.8. Cecily Trenkamp finished



Emma Doyle is back on the course and was the top runner for the girls team. (photo courtesy of Amy Ries) strong in 97th with a time of 33:58.0.

The junior varsity boys competed with an even smaller team. Caleb Livingston finished 110th with a time of 23:58.2, and George in 125th with a time of 25:01.3.

The next meet will be tomorrow at North Linn.



Andrew Kloser tries to stop a Pirate in last Friday's game. The Pirates scored in the fourth quarter to come away with a 20-14 win. Tonight the Cats travel to Ed-Co to take on the Vikings. (photo by Lesa Parmely)

what's up?

Who was your childhood actor/actress crush?

by Paige Winter

Ella Mensen: Ross Lynch

Trista Elgin: Zac Efron

Macy Thompson: Ross Lynch

Emma Doyle: Hugh Jackman

Jena LeGassick: Cole Sprouse

Dylan Schumaker: Selena Gomez

Lane Domeyer: Mrs. Doubtfire

Michael Schaul: Wendy Peffercorn (The Sandlot)

Keira Leyten: Zac Efron

Cecily Trenkamp: Jess Mariaano (Gilmore Girls)

Kayla Quick: Adam Sandler

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Leah Ries



You have been selected to serve on the IGHSAU student athlete advisory board. How were you selected? I was selected by the Union after completing and turning in an application, short answer questions, and a reference.

What are your duties? As a committee we discuss and provide feedback for issues dealing with sportsmanship, safety, student leadership and participation. We also serve as student ambassadors at various state tournaments throughout the year. As a member I act as a voice for Iowa's female student-athletes and serve as a sounding board for the IGHSAU's Representative Council and the Board of Directors.

What goals do you have for this committee? I am excited to work with others on the committee to help and make the high school sports experience the best it can be for everyone. I want to meet new people and help represent and advocate for the female student-athletes of Iowa to the best of my abilities.

Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Allie Dunn

What is your role in the fall play?

I am Windup Ballerina

What do you enjoy most about being a part of this show? I love being a part of all the bloopers moments

What will audience members enjoy most about the play?

The audience will enjoy the lessons you can take away from this production. How this is not just a play, but it is very applicable to life.

If you could star in any TV show, what would it be? "Grey's Anatomy"



Name: Matthew Brehm

What made you decide to audition for All-State Band?

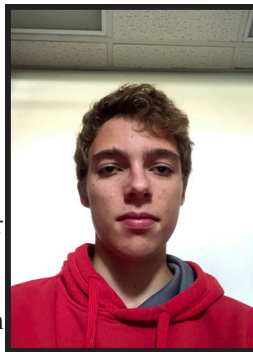
All-State is a great way to become better at playing an instrument because you have to learn difficult pieces by yourself and memorize all 12 scales. As a senior next year, I'll have to lead the saxophone section and I want to be the best I can be.

How have you prepared? I've been practicing my pieces whenever I get the chance and listening to recordings to get a feel for what I need.

What do you enjoy most about playing in band? I've enjoyed playing the saxophone for the last six years. Music is so intricate and easy to get lost in; I love being able to take part in it.

What life lessons have you learned by being in band? The importance of working together with others to produce a beautiful sound. Everyone has their own unique role and the song would sound completely different without one instrument.

If you could join a famous band, which one would it be? The NY Philharmonic is one of the most prestigious orchestras in the world. Being good enough to join it would be a dream come true.



Athletes of the Week

Name: Livia Hermanson

What do you enjoy most about dance team?

I enjoy all the good laughs I have with all the girls and how everyone has each other's back.

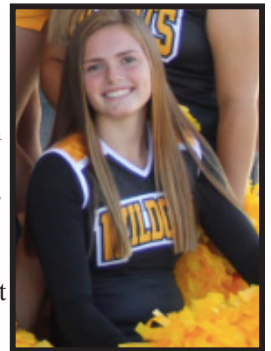
What's the hardest part? Getting all the little mistakes fixed that you think are fine but they really do make a big difference.

What's your favorite routine? My favorite would be the homecoming dance. I loved the ending where we went from Pom to more hip hop. I had a lot of fun with that part.

What's something about dance most people don't realize? You have a lot of fun and make a bunch of new friends.

If you could choreograph a routine, what kind would it be and what song would you use? I'm not one to really choreograph a dance. I've never really been into choreography. I've always loved to be the performer, but it would most likely be hip hop and I would use a mix of really pump songs.

"I have been impressed with Livia's dancing and her positive attitude. It has been a treat getting to know her and I think that she is going to be a great addition to the dance team." —Coach Teymer



Name: Krista Ries

What do you enjoy most about volleyball?

Playing on the court with my friends.

What's your favorite drill in practice? Hitters vs passers.

What's your least favorite drill? Net shuffles.

What's your goal for the team this season?

Our goal for this season is to be repeat Conference Champs.

What has made this year unique for you? The one thing that makes this year unique is that it is my senior year and I never know when it will be my last game. So I play every game like it is my last.



Meet the Freshmen



Keylee, Alison & Jordan

Name: Keylee Cole

Siblings: 1

Activities you plan to be in: Band and choir

Favorite subject: Lunch

Career aspirations: Fishing or CSI investigator

Hobbies: Fishing

Something cool about you: I can breathe

Name: Alison Hogan

Siblings: 2 older sisters and 1 younger sister

Activities you plan to be in: Cross country, track, band, choir, FFA, 4-H, and Drama

Favorite subject: Agriculture

Career aspirations: Farming

Hobbies: Showing animals and farming

Something cool about you: None

Name: Jordan Staner

Siblings: Deecel and DeeJay

Activities you plan to be in: Choir and soccer

Favorite subject: Ag classes

Career aspirations: Welding

Hobbies: Gaming

—typist: Leah Ries

FFA students judge away by Tara Goedken

This past Saturday eight FFA members competed in Poultry Judging and Livestock Judging. The Poultry Judging team received 17th overall as a team. Members of the team were Devin Smith, AJ Ambundo, Jeremy Weber and Ethan Brockholn. The Livestock Judging team received 16th overall as a team. Members of that team were Haley Ronnebaun, Parker Ries, Brady Hogan and Dylan Sands

MV TEL-ALL

compiled by Paige Panosh

American teenagers consume **11%** of alcohol annually in the US by **binge drinking**, according to a 2018 study.

—according to the NCDAS

Best Buds

Saige Hunt & Taylor Jones

by Amaya Hunt

How long have you two been close friends? What brought you together?

Taylor: We've been close friends for about 4 years. In sixth grade, we got paired together for something and the rest is history.

Saige: We've been friends for about 4 to 5ish years. Living on the lake and being on the ski team together really helped bring us closer.

Almost everyone knows that you two spend every day together in the summer... What does an average summer day look like for both of you?

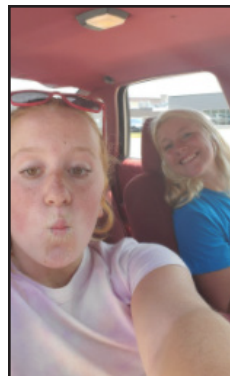
Taylor: An average day for us would include going on the jon boat to get ice cream and, more often than not, running out of gas somewhere ;)

Saige: We usually ski early in the morning, then go to one another's house for breakfast. After that, we always take off in the boat and be gone until the sun starts to go down. After that, we end up skiing again until we head off to someone's house for the night.

With so much time spent together, we have to ask.... Do you ever get annoyed by each other? What about them makes you annoyed?

Taylor: She doesn't annoy me often, but yes, there are definitely days when we both get so tired that our people meter becomes empty.

Saige: Yes. Taylor likes to complain a



lot and it's ALWAYS about little, dumb things. She also talks 24/7.

Now on the other hand, what do you love most about the other?

Taylor: I love that Saige can make anything fun- even being stranded in the boat!

Saige: I love that Taylor is always down for my dumb ideas, and will do just about anything with me.

Besides being on the lake, what do you two like to do together?

Taylor: We like to go on the golf cart or four wheeler and just mess around.

Saige: We don't do a whole lot off of the lake, but if we are ever in a class together during school, it's tradition that we lay on the floor with each other.

What's your favorite memory created together?

Taylor: Personally, my favorite memory is when we ran out of gas in the jon boat, but we had a bluetooth speaker that we just blared the Moana soundtrack on and danced too, until eventually someone came and saved us with gas. I think it sticks out to me as my favorite because we didn't have any worries at all ;)

Saige: I don't even have to think about the answer to this question- I know it right off of the bat. However, ... for legal purposes, I think I'll sit this one out ;)

As always... Where do you see each other in five years?

Taylor: In 5 years, I see us doing the same exact things- being best friends and going on the lake every day together. The only difference will be that we'll be much older, but definitely not any more mature ;)

Saige: In 5 years, Taylor will most likely still be living on the lake and going on daily jon boat rides with her dogs.

Seniors raise \$ for scholarship

Dollars for Scholars board member Keith Kramer spoke with the senior class about establishing an endowment in honor of Anna Nefzger and Teige Hunt. The class is attempting to raise at least \$5000 by asking for donations.



Comedy Corner

(Eye-rolling Dad Jokes Edition)

—compiled by Paige Panosh

"When does a joke become a dad joke? When it becomes apparent."

"I don't trust stairs. They're always up to something."

"What do you call an elephant that doesn't matter? An irrelevant."

"What do you call a fake noodle? An impasta."