

SPORTS SCHEDULE

(Spring schedules subject to change)
MAY 3

BASEBALL
Osakis at Melrose, 4:30 p.m.
Brandon-Evansville vs. Brownville, 5 p.m.
Parkers Prairie vs. OTC, 4:30 p.m.
Minnewaska vs. Paynesville, 4:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL
Osakis vs. Brownville-Eagle Valley, 5 p.m.
Ashby vs. Parkers Prairie, 4:30 p.m.
Alexandria vs. Sauk Rapids-Rice, 5 p.m.

BOYS GOLF
Alexandria at Fergus Falls
Minnewaska at Park Rapids, 9 a.m.

GIRLS GOLF
Alexandria at Minnewaska, 11 a.m.

BOYS TENNIS
Alexandria at Sartell, 4:30 p.m.

MAY 4

BOYS GOLF
Alexandria at Fergus Falls

GIRLS GOLF
Alexandria Invite at Geneva, 9:30 a.m.

SOFTBALL
Alexandria Tournament at AAHS, 10 a.m.

BOYS TENNIS
Alexandria Quad, 9 a.m.

MAY 6

BASEBALL
Ashby vs. Pelican Rapids, 5 p.m.
Brandon-Evansville at WCA, 5 p.m.

SOFTBALL
Ashby vs. Ortonville (DH), 4 p.m.
Brandon-Evansville at WHN, 5 p.m.
WCA vs. Hancock (DH), 4 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF
Alexandria CLC Meet at AGC, 4 p.m.
Osakis at Blackberry Ridge, 9:30 a.m.

BOYS GOLF
Alexandria at Blackberry Ridge GC, 4 p.m.
Osakis at Eagle Creek GC

MAY 7

BASEBALL
Parkers Prairie vs. Pillager, 4:30 p.m.
Osakis vs. LPGE, 5 p.m.

SOFTBALL
Parkers Prairie vs. Pillager (DH), 4 p.m.
Osakis at Swanville, 5 p.m.
Minnewaska vs. Morris Area, 5 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD
Alexandria at True Team in Brainerd, 2 p.m.
Osakis, A-B-E, WCA at Pelican Rapids, 10 a.m.
Minnewaska at section true team in Montevideo

ADAPTED BOWLING
Alexandria vs. Jackson County Central, 3 p.m.

TENNIS
Alexandria vs. Fergus Falls, 4:30 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF
WCA, Ashby at Tipsinah Mounds, 1 p.m.
Minnewaska at Greystone GC, Noon
Minnewaska at Melrose, 4 p.m.

BOYS GOLF
WCA, Ashby at Tipsinah Mounds, 1 p.m.
Minnewaska at Melrose, Noon
Minnewaska at Greystone GC, 4 p.m.



Submitted photo

Alexandria senior Michael Geoffrey King signed his letter of intent this week to swim at Division III Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. Alexandria swim coach Kathy Walker is pictured with him.

King signs to swim with the Gusties

By Eric Morken
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Alexandria senior Michael Geoffrey King was part of a talented Cardinals swim team this past winter season, and King recently signed at the Division III level to continue his swimming career at the next level.

King signed with Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter this week. His academic and athletic career with the Gusties will start in the fall of 2019.

King was awarded the Dean's Academic Scholarship at Gustavus. He will be studying anthropology and film in pursuit of a career in documentary journalism. King was one of four senior Alexandria swimmers this season, along with Patrick Chromey, Nick Olson and Jaymeson Wolkow, to earn the Central Lakes Conference Scholar Athlete Award for maintaining a cumulative GPA above 3.4.

In the pool, King swam both the 100 butterfly and the 100 backstroke at the section meet in February. He helped the Cardinals to a team title at that meet by placing seventh in the butterfly, while also taking 11th in the backstroke.

Osakis' Stanek signs with Division I UND

By Jared Rubado
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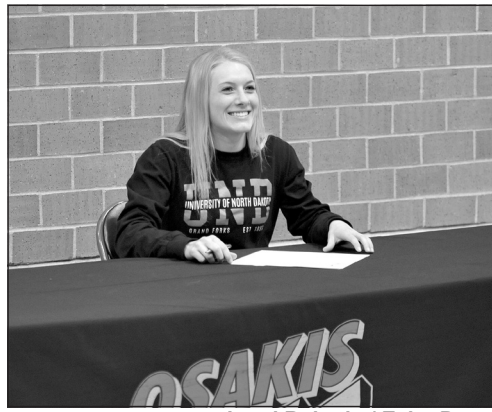
Osakis senior Tianna Stanek has been a fixture in the track and field lineup for the Silverstreaks over the last handful of years, and now she knows where she will spend her academic and athletic career in college.

Stanek signed her national letter of intent as a preferred walk-on for the University of North Dakota track and field program Tuesday night. The Fighting Hawks compete at the Division I level in the Summit League.

"I am really proud of Tianna," Osakis coach Lee VanNyhuis said. "She's put a lot of work in over the years. I was talking to her earlier this week, and I told her that I thought she was ready for the next step. She's ready for new challenges, coaches and a new perspective on the sport."

Stanek has been running for the Osakis girls track team since she was a seventh-grader. As an eighth-grader, she was part of the 4x200 relay team with Hannah Szech, Abigail Stroup and Britney Sadlemyer that won a state title. Stanek is a sprinter and a pole vaulter, and she hopes UND will give her the same opportunity to do multiple events.

"I would love to do both when I get



Jared Rubado / Echo Press

Osakis senior Tianna Stanek cracks a smile at her family after signing her national letter of intent to run track at the University of North Dakota.

there," Stanek said. "Right now, I'm still focused on this season but I want to do as much as I can when I go to college."

Stanek routinely finishes in first place in several events. In her last meet at Holdingford, which featured a field of both Class A and Class AA teams, she took the top spot in the pole vault, 100 meter and 200 meter dash. She was ninth at last year's state meet in the 200-meter dash

and also helped the 4x100 relay team to a fifth-place finish.

UND was the only Division I offer that Stanek received. She had interest from other schools, but the fit at UND was an offer she couldn't refuse.

"I really love their physical therapy program. It's a big reason why I chose UND over some other schools," Stanek said. "I had offers from Jamestown and Scholastica. Those were the main ones I was considering. I was looking for higher competition, and I think I'm ready for it."

VanNyhuis has watched Stanek grow into a role model for his team over the years.

"She leads by example," VanNyhuis said. "She's always the first one in the weight room and always going that extra mile when she doesn't need to. The coaching staff up there is getting a great kid."

Stanek also played volleyball and basketball for Osakis. She attributes her successful high school career in three sports to a lot of others around her like her family and coaches.

"They have been with me throughout this whole process," Stanek said. "Even in educational purposes. I never expected to do track in college, but now I'm excited."

BASEBALL

Albany wins late in pitcher's duel with Osakis

By Eric Morken
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The home opener for the Osakis baseball team had to wait a little longer.

The Silverstreaks were scheduled to play Section 6AA rival Albany in Osakis on Monday night, but wet field conditions forced the two teams to meet in Avon for the matchup. It turned into a tight pitchers' duel that the Huskies won by a 3-2 final.

"We saw a great pitcher today in (senior Adam) Winkels, who is a St Cloud State

commit," Osakis head coach Shad Schmidt said. "I feel like we played well, especially under the circumstances of having to move a home game to Avon. We were coming off of a four-game week last week with two long road trips with late nights. Sandwiched in there over the weekend, and I feel the boys gave their best effort and we had a chance to win. We will take this experience and move forward to make us better and focus on Royalton."

The Huskies scored the go-ahead run in the sixth

inning after back-to-back one-out hits. A walk with two outs loaded the bases before an infield single on a close play at first scored what turned out to be the game-winning run.

The Silverstreaks (7-2) led 2-1 going into that inning after scoring twice in the fifth. Waylon Muenzhuber drove in Hunter Infanger with a single to tie the game at one apiece. Three batters later, Luke Staloch walked with the bases loaded to give the team a one-run lead.

Infanger opposed Win-

kels on the mound and gave Osakis a chance. He worked the first five innings and allowed two runs on four hits and two walks. He struck one out. Luke Imdieke worked the sixth and took the loss.

The Silverstreaks had three hits, one each from Carter Rost, Muenzhuber and Bauer Klimek.

ALBANY 3, OSAKIS 2
OSAKIS PITCHING - Hunter Infanger - 5IP, 4H, 2R, 2ER, 2BB, 1SO; Luke Imdieke - L, 1IP, 3H, 1R, 1ER, 1BB, 2SO
OSAKIS OFFENSE - Carter Rost - 1-4; Luke Staloch - 0-2; Logan Hartshorn - 0-3; Luke Imdieke - 0-2, BB; Infanger - 0-2, Sac., 1 run; Mason Moore - 0-2, Sac.; Isaac Froemming - 0-3; Waylon Muenzhuber - 1-3, RBI, 1 run; Bauer Klimek - 1-3

HOCKEY

From Page B1

country and still seeking the adventure that brought her there in the first place.

Missing the game

It was Strayer's adventurous spirit that drew her to a place like New Zealand from the get-go.

She currently works for a company called Active Adventures, which organizes outdoor and hiking trips for people all over New Zealand, Australia, South America, Nepal and Europe.

Strayer had traveled around New Zealand with DeNucci for nine months when they found themselves in Queenstown, a scenic spot that sets up against the Southern Alps.

"One day, we were simply strolling through the Queenstown Gardens and stumbled upon the Queenstown Ice Arena," Strayer said. "Although it was closed being that it was the summer season, just seeing the building made me realize how much I missed being around the sport."

It wasn't long before Strayer reached out to the owners of the ice rink and secured a job for the upcoming winter season. She hasn't gotten away from hockey since.

Strayer started to play casually on co-ed teams in Queenstown. The sport of rugby is beloved by many in New Zealand, but hockey is not considered a high priority in the country. It gets no government funding on a national level, so players are self funded when it comes to costs associated with representing the country at training camps and competing at tournaments.

"When I arrived in Queenstown, there was only

a half a dozen or so females in the entire town who played," Strayer said. "This encouraged me to be a strong female presence in the hockey community and push for more girls to take up the sport. It's been incredibly rewarding watching the numbers grow - as of now, there's nearly 60 females who play in Queenstown."

Strayer went from playing in more social leagues to goaltending with the Southern Storm, which is part of the New Zealand Women's Ice Hockey League.

A spot on the national team

After a long process, Strayer was approved citizenship in March of this year to become a dual citizen of New Zealand and the United States.

That opened new doors for her on the ice. Strayer was one of just 23 players - 20 skaters and three goalies - selected by the senior women's ice hockey program coaches to the traveling team that made up the 2019 New Zealand Ice Fernz National team.

"I can't even fathom what my reaction would be if you told me 10 years ago that I'd be playing for the New Zealand National Team," Strayer said. "Even one year ago, it was still a dream of mine, and some days I can't even believe I put on that jersey."

Strayer and her teammates recently got back from competing at the Division II, Group B level of the International Ice Hockey Federation Women's World Championships in Brasov, Romania. New Zealand played at one of the lower competitive levels for the IIHF tournament, but they won silver in their division, with Chinese Taipei winning gold

and Iceland earning bronze.

"Given that New Zealand is an incredibly tiny country and is quite new when it comes to women's ice hockey, we were very stoked with our second-place finish," Strayer said. "Every team we played was a different sort of challenge, but we came together really well as a team and played to our best ability."

The group played together just once ahead of the world championships. That came a week before the tournament at a training camp.

About a month before leaving for Romania, an injury to a New Zealand defender left the team shorthanded on defense. That opened another new door for Strayer.

"The coach, having heard that I'd been honing my skills playing out, asked if I'd consider switching positions for the tournament," she said. "Knowing this was the best decision for the team, I jumped at the opportunity and was able to live my 20-year goalie dream of leaving the blue crease and getting the chance to score pucks rather than save them."

Everything the game has given

Strayer can look back on her start as a goalie two decades ago in Alexandria and see how it helped shape her.

She pointed to playing with top-level players like teammates Abby Williams and Ashley Holmes as pushing her to become a better athlete.

"Then just being at the rink throughout my entire youth and having the opportunity to hop on the ice at (Noonan Park) or in my own backyard gave me the raw skills, both in goal and playing out, that I do not believe I would've otherwise had," she said.

Strayer can't imagine what her life would be like without

hockey. From the time she was young, she and her dad would use hockey trips around the country and into Canada as a chance to see different cultures and explore other landscapes.

"It doesn't really surprise me that she's chosen a place to live that's known as the adventure capital of the world," Danielle's mom said. "When her and her dad would go on hockey trips, they'd go whitewater rafting or repelling. It was always an adventure with a hockey trip. It was never just staying at a hotel and swimming in a pool type of activities."

Hockey led to her meeting her husband, Ryan Strayer, who is originally from Connecticut but came to Queenstown to play for the Skycity Stampede of the New Zealand Ice Hockey League. He too has been granted citizenship in New Zealand and is playing for the men's national team.

"It's hard to put into words what hockey has given me in life," Strayer said. "I cannot imagine who I would be today without the sport. From a young age, you're taught how to be an impactful part of a team, take responsibility for your actions, push yourself out of your comfort zone and try new things."

Strayer has gone outside her comfort zone more than most. It's rewarded her with a life on and off the ice that she loves.

"I can't say what the future may bring, but at the moment my husband and I have found a wonderful home here in New Zealand," Strayer said. "The more laid back way of life, small-town feel, endless adventures and a work-balance lifestyle that's found here is something we both cherish."

BRIEFS

From Page B1

they watched him play at a tournament in California last summer.

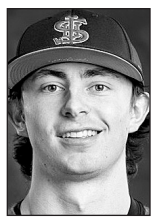
NCAA rules prohibit college coaches from contacting Thompson directly right now because he's a sophomore, but family or players that age can contact them if they initiate the call to the coaches.

The college coaches can reach out directly to Thompson's high school or AAU coaches about him, and also watch him at tournaments and in workouts. Coaches from Purdue and Minnesota were in Alexandria to see

him work out on April 30, and Texas and Louisville saw him at a workout in the Twin Cities the night before. Wisconsin was also scheduled to watch him on April 30 but had to reschedule due to weather causing a flight delay.

Thompson shot 38 percent from three, 58 percent from two and 75 percent from the free-throw line during the high school season. He is part of a solid nucleus of players for Alexandria who will return next season with high expectations after going 19-9 this winter.

► Alexandria native Danny Kuhn is picking up right where he left off on the mound for the St.



Kuhn

John's University baseball team after a standout junior season in Collegeville. Kuhn was a first-team All-Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference player in 2018 after posting a 7-1 record with a 2.38 ERA and 45 strikeouts last year.

He's putting up similar numbers again this spring. In 44 1/3 innings through eight appearances (seven starts), Kuhn has a 2.44 ERA with 39 strikeouts. He has held opponents to a .244 batting average.

The Johnnies are 26-9 overall and 11-5 in the MIAC as of May 1.

► Alexandria no longer has a Northwoods League baseball team that calls the city home, but a former Alexandria Beetles player recently made his Major League Baseball debut.

Matt Beaty played for the Beetles in the summer of 2012 and for the Green Bay Bullfrogs in 2014. He was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 12th round of the 2015 MLB draft, and Beaty made his debut with the Dodgers on April 30. He entered the game against the San Francisco Giants in the top of the eighth

inning as a pinch-hitter and singled to center field for his first career hit as a big leaguer.

Beaty, who played for Belmont University in college, hit .310 with two home runs, 11 doubles and 26 RBIs in 38 games with the Alexandria Beetles in 2012. He became the 213th Northwoods League player to reach the Major League level.

► Alexandria native Lukas Bigger had a memorable day one at the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference men's golf championship on April 18.

Bigger, a freshman at Minnesota State-Mankato, led the entire field

after the first round of the 54-hole tournament. He shot a 71 that day, and it was highlighted by a hole-in-one on the par-3 17th hole that was playing at 198 yards. Bigger's opening round included that ace to go with four birdies, seven pars and six bogeys.

He finished the tournament in 16th place overall after shooting 77 on day two and 81 in round three for a total score of 229.

The Mavericks had won the NSIC Championship the last four seasons, but Minnesota State finished fourth this year with an overall team score of 903. Winona State won the title with a score of 870.