

Sports

St. Peter Herald



TCU/Cleveland tennis captains move up ladder 2B



St. Peter racer picks up victory 6B

Thursday

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Thursday, August 27, 2020

GIRLS SOCCER

SWIMMING

Swim captains like Saints' prospects in shorter season

By PAT BECK
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Of all the sports allowed to participate this fall, girls swimming and diving has the most precautionary guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A big reason for that is swimming is inside in an enclosed environment while the other sports allowed are outside in open air: girls tennis, girls and boys cross country and girls and boys soccer.

No one is allowed in the pool except swimmers, coaches, judges and timers. "There are not as many coaches as there was in past years," St. Peter senior co-captain Kathryn Larson said.

"We are not allowed spectators, and we might not even have another team in the pool during certain meets," St. Peter senior co-captain Morgan Kelly said. "We are figuring out if parents can be timers or not in order to watch their kids swim at least once this season."

"Every day for practice we walk in and out with masks on, we are limited to only four people per lane, and must social distance as much as possible. Being in the water gives us the advantage of not having to wipe every little thing down because the chlorine kills that bacteria, but we still keep our own equipment for the remainder of the season so that germs aren't spread. Any team events are held outside and masks are recommended."

In many cases, meets are being run virtually where team swim in their own pools and exchange scores.

The Saints will have seven meets including five at home. The ones against Mankato East and West will be virtual because the Big Nine Conference decided to run

them that way. St. Peter also will have home-and away meets with Marshall and Tri-City United and a season-opening home meet Friday against New Prague.

"The season will only be 11 weeks long, basically cutting out the weeks where we would compete for sections and state," Kelly said. "Right now, we only have seven meets scheduled, but we are hoping to add more on as time goes on."

"Virtual meets and limited team bonding activities are two major differences. Certain conferences such as the Big 9 are not allowing their teams to travel or invite other teams to their pool, so instead we will be swimming against them virtually. We will each swim our events in our designated pools, then at the end of the meet our times will be sent in and a winner will be determined. Unfortunately, we will probably not be able to do our normal fun activities such as our team sleepover and carbloads, but we are constantly trying to be creative and come up with alternatives."

It has not been decided if there will be section and state meets, which have greater numbers of athletes and bigger crowds.

"This pandemic really hits hard for teenagers and college students because they are losing parts of their lives that they won't ever get back, so even being able to have a season is a blessing itself," said Kelly, a two-time state qualifier. "The likelihood of having sections or state is very slim, which was the real hard hitter for me. My senior year isn't going to be the same as I imagined, but I am trying to make the most of every day and find the positives wherever I can."

See SWIMMING on 3B



St. Peter swimming and diving team senior captains (from left) Kathryn Larson and Morgan Kelly lead the Saints into the season opener at 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28 against New Prague at St. Peter Middle School Pool. (Pat Beck/St. Peter Herald)



St. Peter girl soccer captains kick up their heels in celebrating the start of the season. The Saints open the season at home at 6:45 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28 against Marshall at St. Peter Middle School. (Pat Beck/St. Peter Herald)

HIGH GOALS

St. Peter girls soccer captains shoot for three-peat

By PAT BECK
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Practices and games are different for St. Peter High School girls soccer, but captains Vanessa Krueger, Ella Gilbertson and Maddie More are happy just to be playing.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic virus, the Minnesota State High School League set rules and limited the length of seasons and the number of games.

"It's very different," Krueger said. "We wear masks to and from practice. It's a lot of station work to try to socially distance ourselves, so we have to keep aware of that."

"We use hand sanitizers when we get to the field and before we leave the field. Before we get to the field, Bre (head coach Bre Steele) sets out cones that are 6 feet apart, and that's like our home station. We'll get ready there, and that's where we'll keep our water and our bags and stuff."

"We try to spread out during warm-ups. We use the whole field length. Like when we do sprints, we split into groups of less than 25. We've been doing a lot of station work with groups of like

CAPTAINS LOGS

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| <p>Vanessa Krueger Parents: Angela and Robert Krueger Position: Defense Grade: Senior Honors: 4-time letter winner Other sports: Just for Kicks Dance College plans: "I know I want to attend a four-year college. I'm undecided what I want to pursue, but maybe something in the science field, like health science. I would like to play soccer if the opportunity is there."</p> <p>Ella Gilbertson Parents: Heather and Josh Gilbertson Position: Center/outside midfielder Grade: Senior Honors: 3-time letter winner, 2019 all-conference, 2-time captain 2019 stats: 3 goals, 1 assist Other sports: none</p> | <p>College plans: "I plan to go to a four-year college. I'm not sure where or what I'll be in. Hopefully I want to play soccer even if that means club soccer."</p> <p>Maddie More Parents: Rachel and Charles More Position: Center midfielder Grade: Senior Honors: 3-time letter winner, 2018 all-conference honorable mention, 2019 all-conference 2019 stats: 8 goals, 4 assists Other sports: Basketball, track College plans: "I want to go to a four-year college. I'm undecided on where and what I'll be pursuing. I would like to play a sport. It would be a great way to meet people, but it depends on where I go and what I'll be doing."</p> |
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nine of us, and we're staying with our group for the rest of two-a-days. So we just don't intermingle and have that contact with others."

The number of games have been shortened to 11 with all being against Big South Conference opponents.

"We never really want the season to be shorter," Krueger said. "But with the alternative of not playing at all, we're glad that we get to play. We'd always be happier with more games."

The stadium where the Saints play, Floyd B. Johnson Memorial Field/Track at the middle school, is limited to 250 people counting the players, the coaches and the referees, Gilbertson said.

"The players get two tickets to give out to parents or whoever they wish. We were hoping with football and volleyball canceled, we would get all those fans. Hopefully something changes."

See GIRLS on 3B

BOYS SOCCER

St. Peter boys soccer captains shoot for more offense

By PAT BECK
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The St. Peter boys soccer team was more of a defensive-minded team last season, but this season the Saints hope to pump up the offense.

Captains Kelson Lund, Logan Moe, Zechariah Kyoore, and Zach Taylor agree that the Saints need to score more.

"We have not had the best scoring for a while," Lund said. "Jade [Reicks who graduated in 2017] and Ken [Ringler who graduated in 2018] were really good. We have some people at practice who will be able to pick it up."

"Communication is always big issue with a big field, being to communicate throughout the field. And with that comes more passing. And also we need a bit more focusing as we go along."

Moe agrees that the Saints need work on their passing and scoring: "Last year we didn't work on a lot of passing, so we've got to try and nail that down. My passing could be better. I'm not really getting that foot-to-foot contact. Some times my passes are a little off. But I'm getting pretty decent at through balls, so it's



St. Peter boys soccer captains (from left) Kelson Lund, Zechariah Kyoore, Zach Taylor and Logan Moe do a balancing act during the first week of practice. The first game kicks off at 6:45 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28 versus Marshall at Southwest Minnesota State University. (Pat Beck/St. Peter Herald)

a slow process.

"And we lost some pretty good strikers last year, so we've got to replace that. Seth Reicks will do a good job of that. He's pretty fast. We need to capitalize more on our chances. And I think we should be pretty good."

"We also need to work on our conditioning. Some guys haven't play since last soccer season. Some

didn't play this summer because they were working. We have two-a-days now so it's conditioning in the morning."

Kyoore thinks all of the Saints could push the ball forward more to score more goals. "We don't do that enough when we're attacking, the strikers making runs when they receive the ball. Moving into spaces. That's when I scored last year. I need to push to get more assists with the

wide players, the wingers."

Good goalies

Lund said: "Hopefully we can get away with one goal a game. We have some good goalies, like Josh [Robb] and Connor [Bjorling] came out. They look good."

Moe agrees: "We've got some pretty good goalies. Connor [a sophomore] played JV, and we got

a senior Josh Robb, and we're going to work it out between those two. I think they'll be pretty good."

Robb hasn't played in a game, but he played in captains' practices over the summer. "I think he looks pretty solid, so he could become a strength along with Connor," Moe said.

Kyoore said: "I'm really happy that new players came out like Josh Robb."

Strengths, goals

A defender, Taylor brings strength and speed to the team. "That's kind of why I chose defense. We're working on building a really good team chemistry. We're all really close together. And we're always working hard. As a captain I'm making sure I'm always helping out like making everyone feels like they're a part of this program. The team needs to work on building relationships. We have a lot of younger guys."

"Speaking for myself and the seniors, just having a season is something I'm really thankful for because all sports were pushed back, and they're not guaranteed a season. Neither are we. Work hard and treat every game like it's the last and try to

win every game. A lot of the seniors have been playing throughout our childhood. All the time we spent together, we may as well work hard every game."

Moe also thinks his strength and a strength of the team is its "physicality." He just runs everybody over going for the ball. "That's why I'm called the bulldozer. I get off some pretty good shots, too, nowadays. Our shots are pretty good."

Lund said one of his strengths is his "endurance. I can run for a long time. My height (6-foot-5) is very helpful. Also I'm very good at passing and touches. We have really good chemistry together. We have a really good effort. We might now have the best passing at times, but we work through it and we always get to it."

Lund said his goal for the season is to "have as much fun as I can. It's my last year. I've played with these guys for a long time, and I want to have one more fun year with them all. We also have fun, but we want to do as well as we can. One last year go hard at it. We have about 10 seniors, many of whom he has played soccer with since sixth grade."

See BOYS on 3B

GIRLS TENNIS



St. Peter freshman Maddie Kamm plays her first career match at No. 4 singles. (Photos courtesy of Bob Messerli)



St. Peter senior Lizzy Orth teams up with fellow senior Emily Salfer to win in straight sets at No. 1 doubles.



St. Peter eighth-grader Annika Southworth charges to a straight-set win at No. 2 singles.

Saints' girls tennis wins season opener over Waseca 5-2

By JILL HILDEBRANDT
Correspondent

Spectators had to watch outside the usual viewing area, players wore masks during the starting line-up and other precautions were taken due to COVID-19, but the St. Peter Saints girls tennis team started off the unusual season on a high note: beating host Waseca 5-2 on Monday. Last year, the Saints fell to the Blue Jays 4-3 and etched out just one doubles' win. This year the Saints swept doubles, and No. 1 and 2 singles.

Coach Aaron Rothenberger said: "Our doubles are our most experienced. We have two senior captains, Lizzy Orth and Emily Salfer, who have played doubles almost their entire career. That really helps them in the line-up, as they see a lot of things, they've been through a lot of things. They know how to finish points. Even when things aren't going well, they figure out how to win games." Orth and Salfer won 6-2, 6-1.

With No. 2 doubles, Josie Wiebusch and Jayna Matejcek, who played together last year, Rothenberger said: "They were up 5-2, had the chance to serve it out in

the first set. Didn't quite do it, but eeked out that first set, then we were smooth sailing in that second set. "Despite having a knee injury that impacted her practice time, Rothenberger credited Wiebusch "for staying consistent and playing really good tennis," and Matejcek for always being "steady and solid," even with having only played one previous season.

Molly Voeltz and Macy Weller knocked out a doubles win at No. 3, and Rothenberger was proud of how they played. He said, "They got into a tough battle in the second set," but came back with consistent playing. "Molly executed very well at the net. Macy stayed steady with her serves."

The Saints got two wins at No. 1 and 2 singles. "Singles, we have some inexperience there. They're young: our No. 1, Amelia Hildebrandt, 10th grade — she's our most experienced singles. Played No. 1 singles last year. That's great to have: to get your No. 1 back the following year and to anchor some young players." Hildebrandt won 6-0, 6-0.

With the loss of Milena Lund to graduation; Oyku Celik, study abroad student,

who went back to Turkey at the end of the school year; and Weller at doubles, there were a few single spots to fill. Annika Southworth (8) moved up from No. 4 singles to No. 2. "She battled a lot of matches at 4 last year, and you don't know what's going to happen at 2, but so far she's working on finishing points," Rothenberger said. "She showed it today. She had to play a girl she lost to last year — and the big difference this year was that Annika was able to finish some of those points, especially at the net." Southworth won 6-4, 6-4.

Southworth said her match strengths were "going up to the net," and she wanted to work on "not hitting it directly at her (opponent), but move it more side to side." The leap from No. 4 to No. 2 was more challenging than Southworth anticipated, but she knew she had "to stay calm and everything worked out in the end."

New to the varsity singles line-up were Rhyann Holmgren (9) at No. 3 and Maddie Kamm (9) at No. 4. Both lost their matches, but Rothenberger said, "Their athletic ability showed and what we're going to work on is improving their shots, getting some

consistency with their pace, and keeping better at the net."

Rothenberger was proud of not just his varsity players, but also the JV team: "About every girl on our JV is up and coming. They have their own distinct ways of how they are up and coming. You have girls who just came out last year who are really good athletes, and their strokes are not awesome, but they hit with consistency and they know how to battle. Then our girls who have played for a while who have really nice strokes, and are consistent, their serves are consistent." Assistant Coaches, Bob Messerli and Bridget Mathiowetz, work with the JV players.

Of the overall team, Rothenberger said, "I am very pleased with how we're playing, and everyone's stepping up compared to last year to this year. Again, we could make an argument that this is a rebuilding year, but I consider it a transitional year where we are competitive, not as experienced, but we're going to be a really solid team in the future."

Saints travel Thursday to play River Valley (in Sleepy Eye), then host their first match Monday against River Valley.

St. Peter 5, Waseca 2

Singles

1. Hildebrandt (10), St. Peter, def. CeCe Huttemier (10) 6-0, 6-0
2. Southworth (8), St. Peter, def. Sarah Robbins (10) 6-4, 6-4
3. Hannah Brandt (11), Waseca, def. Holmgren (9) 6-3, 6-4
4. Brooke Hayes (12), Waseca def. Kamm (9) 6-2, 6-4

Doubles

1. Orth (12)-Salfer (12), St. Peter, def. Tanika Johnson (12)-Emily Farley (12) 6-2, 6-1
2. Wiebusch (11)-Matejcek (12), St. Peter, def. Nicola DeJager (11)-Grace Lapidis (11) 6-4, 6-2
3. Voeltz (11)-Weller (10), St. Peter, def. Jewel Paulson (11)-Takaya Schoenrock (8) 6-3, 7-5

JV Singles

- Raina Roemhildt (10) lost 4-1, 2-4, 8-10
Kali Erickson (9) won 4-2, 4-1
Madison Akemann (10) lost 1-4, 1-4
Riley Rubischko (9) won 4-0, 4-0

JV Doubles

- Zetta Haugen (9)-Sophia Doherty (11) won 4-1, 4-2
Desi Willaert (10)-Heidi Weber (10) won 1-4, 4-2, 10-8
Callie Voeltz (9)-Alex Matarrese (9) won 4-0, 4-2
Erika Volk (11)-Sophie Matarrese (10) won 4-2, 4-1

Tri-City United/Cleveland girls tennis captains move up the ladder

By PAT BECK
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Senior co-captains Josie Plut and Gabby Prochaska will play bigger roles this season for the Tri-City United/Cleveland Titans girls tennis team.

Plut is moving up from No. 2 singles to No. 1 singles.

Prochaska is stepping up from junior varsity to a her first varsity spot at No. 1 doubles.

Plut, who takes over for last year's No. 1 singles, graduate Erica Jackson, knows what she's getting into facing the No.1 player on the other teams.

"It's a step up from first to second, so I'm just trying to make sure that I match with people, be quick, keep up with people and be able to hit back because first is very different than second. It's difficult to get into that mindset."

Prochaska transferred from New Prague last season, so she rules limited her to playing only junior varsity and exhibition. Now she can play varsity.

Although this is her first season at the varsity level, she has played tennis since sixth grade.

COVID-19

The co-captains are just happy to be allowed to play tennis in the pandemic virus world.

"I just hope we can enjoy the season, and we all make sure that we're supporting each other because it's one of the only sports that's able to play this season," Plut said. "The games and the season did get cut short a little bit. I'm just happy we get to play."

Usually have 16 matches. But this year only Minnesota River Conference dual matches (11 in eight weeks) will be played beginning Aug. 27. They will be home and away except only one match versus Maple River. There will be two matches with United South Central, Le Sueur-Henderson, Southwest Christian, Sibley East and Belle Plaine. Most of the time they will play the same team twice in the same week. Six matches will count in the conference standings. Five will be nonconference against the same teams.

Prochaska said she is especially glad to be able to play doubles. "They were talking about just playing singles."



Senior co-captains Gabby Prochaska (left) and Josie Plut lead the Tri-City United/Cleveland Titans girls tennis team into the season opener at 4:15 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27 at Belle Plaine. (Pat Beck/St. Peter Herald)

Shaking hands is not allowed and social distancing is in effect.

"We have to make sure we keep our distance from each other," Prochaska said.

Not often do high school doubles players go for the ball at the same time because usually one is at the net and one is at the baseline.

Although tennis has to follow some guidelines, Prochaska said, "I think that it only affected us a little bit."

"Tennis is pretty normal," Plut said. "We don't have as many matches. Before practices we have to wear masks coming from our cars and in the buses. For matches, we have to sanitize before and after. And we can't shake hands. But we're able to play both singles and doubles which is really nice. We're able to do our full roster."

Head coach Phil Murry agreed that "tennis is probably the sport that remains the most normal. We're distancing and the kid. They wear their masks until we start practice. But we still get to play four singles and three doubles. There isn't a drill that we've done in the past that we haven't been

able to do yet. We just space the kids out. Hopefully everything works out."

Players are not allowed to wipe their faces with the balls.

The home team is only allowed to touch the scorecards.

"Wearing the mask and riding the bus is going to be a little different this year," Prochaska said. "We're going to have to stay apart. That's going to be the only hard part from our team because we're all so close."

There is a limit of 250 spectators. The bleachers will be roped off, so if they want to sit, they need to bring their own chairs.

"Out here we're fine in numbers of spectators," Murry said. "Bleachers are off limits. The limit is 250. We'll never reach that."

"We'll tell the parents to bring a lawn chair, spread out, watch your kid," Murry said. "We've always had a concession stand here. This year no concession stand, one of our money makers."

Benefit of the virus

One benefit for tennis is four volley-

ball players, two juniors and two freshmen, joined the team because that sport got moved to the spring. "It helps numbers this year," Plut said. There 26 total players.

Prochaska said "it's super exciting to have volleyball players. The girls are super athletic, and they're doing so well already. Hopefully they decide they like tennis."

The volleyball players are inexperienced in their first year out for tennis, but Prochaska said she saw a couple of them play this summer. "They're catching on pretty quick."

Another plus for tennis is "there won't be any volleyball or football, so maybe there will be some extra fans," Prochaska said. "More supporters is always helpful."

Strengths, weaknesses

Plut said her strengths in tennis are "my ground stroke, and I make sure to get set and ready and make sure to run for ball and don't stand there."

Plut said strengths of the team are: "We all are very good playing together, our

CAPTAINS' LOGS

Josie Plut

Parents: Peter and Stephanie Plut

Position: No. 1 singles

Grade: Senior

Honors: 2-year captain, 3-year letter winner, 1-time all-conference, Titan Pride Award, Rookie of the Year

Other sports: Track, long-distance runner

College plans: "I'm hoping to go to La Crosse, Wisconsin and get into physician's assistant school which is about five years. I might play tennis, maybe just a club."

Gabby Prochaska

Parents: Brian and Roxie Prochaska

Position: No. 1 doubles

Grade: Senior

Honors: none

Other sports: Hockey, Center Stage dance

College plans: "I plan to go to a four year. I haven't decided exactly where. I'm looking into the medical field."

doubles especially. We're good talking and moving around."

Plut said she and the team need to work on having the right mental attitude.

"I need to work on my attitude," Plut said. "If I'm not doing so well, I can get upset and almost want to give up. I just need to remember to keep going. Our team could improve on kind of the same thing, make sure we ride it through even though we might not be winning. Don't give up."

Prochaska said: "My individual goal is to just play hard and get better throughout the year. I think my team goal is everyone to come together as a team."

She said her "best strength is trying to be positive and getting everyone all hyped up. I bring the music and play music for everyone."

However, Prochaska said she needs to "work on my hitting. We need to come together more. I know it's hard because some of the girls are really young, but we're going to really try and become a team this year."

GALLERY



On a board, freshman Grace Timm works her legs.



Sophomore Jess Fast does streamline.



Seventh-grader Lydia Yost works on the board.

Swimming Saints dive into the season



Sophomore Madison Kelly does the freestyle.



St. Peter girls, including eighth-grader Sarah Coe, swim into the season with two-a-day practices starting Aug. 17-28. The Saints open the season at home at 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28 against New Prague at St. Peter Middle School Pool. (Pat Beck photos/St. Peter Herald)

GIRLS

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More said: "It's different not being able to have the extra fans because they give us a lot of energy when they're cheering, and that pumps us up. So that will be a little harder this year. We just got to make sure we supply it ourselves from the bench and on the field. Practices are different, but we've just got to make the most of this 11-game season we have as seniors and just make the most out of a terrible situation."

The Saints are making the most of the situation.

"We're very lucky that we're able to play or have a season at all," Krueger said. "We're focusing on that positive through all of this. As an individual with COVID going on, I want to focus on making the most out of our senior year with the shortened year. Growing with our team and making the most out of what we have."

Gilbertson said, "At least we have it. I'm glad that we get to play. At first I thought wearing a mask was very new, very different. But if you look at the bigger outlook of things, if this is what it's going to take to make sure that we have our season and don't get shut down, of course I say that we follow all the rules."

Goals

As the two-time defending Big South Conference champions, the Saints are shooting for a three repeat.

"As a team, obviously you want to be very successful," Krueger said. "Last year we were almost undefeated in the conference (10-1-1), so I think that is a really good goal to try for again this year. We play each team twice and New Ulm once."

Gilbertson went so far as to say finishing undefeated "would be pretty cool."

The Saints lost a number of key players to graduation including leading scorer Amelia Carlson (13 goals, six assists), plus defender AJ Brock and midfielders Nicole Schilling and Izzy Lind

"We lost some girls last year that we've been playing with like forever," Gilbertson said. "It's going to be very different without them on the field. But with the new season, we get to play when other teams don't get to play, so that creates exciting energy. We get to be here, so we're going to play hard, so it's going to be a fun year. I'm excited to see what the younger classmen do for our team and build up the energy."

Gilbertson said her goals for the Saints are to "grow as a team and get closer together because then it shows in the field."

Gilbertson said she needs to work on "always be running on the field and stay on my toes. And always being that voice on the field

even when I'm tired."

More said that losing key players who they have been playing with them since fourth grade will give the team a year to grow.

"It will be a great way to bring in the underclassmen and make sure they are also working hard and starting to understand what it's going to take to play at a high level," More said, "like talking and connecting and seeing where you can pass the ball or where to make a run. The overall goal is to help everyone get better and improve over the season. As an upperclassman and a captain, I need to be always encouraging people and making sure everyone is not getting down on themselves and pick it up. If you mess up, keep going. It's in the past. Try something new."

Strengths

Krueger said the strengths of the team is "playing as a team. The girls are super close, and we consider ourselves a whole big family. We connect very well. We have good chemistry. This year being a captain has pushed me to talk a lot, especially at practices always doing encouragement and positive energy there. And I have good touches at defense."

Krueger said the Saints need to work on "keeping our intensity up for the whole game. We play not as well in the first half, and it takes us a while to get up there. We just need to come out and start strong."

Gilbertson said the Saints are "very good at seeing the field. We play together. We have really strong players on each side of the field. We have strong defenders, midfielders and forwards and connecting as well."

"Individually I have a lot of energy, and I bring that to the team. I try to bring positive encouragement. I also see the field well, and I'm good at making passes."

"I think our team needs to work on finishing. We take a long time to get up the field, and if we do have an opportunity, we need to finish it. Emma Jones is our top forward for scoring." She had seven goals and one assist last season.

More also will be counted on for scoring and agrees that the Saints need to work on finishing.

She said the Saints need to "make sure that we can find better passes for better angles to finish it. Also I need to work on my turns, like getting the first touch, turning and going right away and looking up to find passes."

"We are very good swinging it to the back and then finding those connecting passes into the middle and then running it up the sidelines. Individually I have pretty good endurance, so I'm able to stay out there for a while, keep running and get up and down the field. That's important as a midfielder."

BOYS

From Page 1B

Kyoore's goal for the team is "to go undefeated because I know we're capable. We have 10 games, so like five goals and three assists."

"I work well with players, passing and assisting. Our team has been playing with each other for a long time, the seniors, so we all have good connection with each other bonding. The seventh-graders, the freshmen are probably better than years in the past, and we know each individual strengths and weaknesses."

Virus

Although shortened in length and games, "We're happy just to have a season," Taylor said. "I think it's going to be a really fun season. We've got a lot of new kids. Everyone is just happy to get out and do something and just have fun and enjoy everyone. That's the biggest thing."

Kyoore said: "It's unfortunate that the season is shortened, but we're just going to try to make the best of it. The seniors know it's our last year, and we're just happy to have a season, so we're not going to take it for granted."

Moe said: "It sucks, but I get everything that we're trying to do. We're trying to keep everybody safe. It's one of the bigger goals for the season because we don't want to mess anything up for the MSHSL or other teams that are playing us. I understand it, so I don't have a problem with it."

"It's tough to not play as many games and have a shorter season, especially since it's my senior year, I definitely would have

loved to get in more games before I move on to other stuff."

Lund said: "It obviously makes it difficult. Our summer season for most of us we didn't have one. So it was very hard to continue growing. It also makes it harder in general for practices and make sure everyone stays safe. But I'm glad that we get to have a season."

Some of the precautions at practices include setting up cones behind the bench to provide a place for players to put their gear bags and separate from each other.

"Last year everybody was in tight quarters," Moe said.

There are also rules for spectator. The capacity is 250 people. "Now it's two tickets for each player, but they might modify that," Lund said. "We'll see how that works out. Wearing masks is optional in the stadium, but you have to social distance if it's not your family."

Lund said he definitely wants fellow students, who are some of the biggest cheerers. "I hope we can have a good amount of people and still stay safe. It's so fun to watch."

There is a lot less social interaction, Lund said. "It's just been harder to get soccer going. There's always some people who can go and some who can't go. You have to be careful with everything. Parents might decide they can't. Everyone is busy as well."

The Saints, however, have gained some new talent from four football players whose sport was moved to the fall: Carter Wendroth, Bennett Olson, Tate Olson and Ethan Grant, who's a manager.

"I know a lot of them are natural athletes, strong and fast, that's a big part of soccer, especially boys soccer," Taylor said. "I know they'll push people in practice, and overall that will help the program."

CAPTAINS LOGS

Zach Taylor

Parents: Mark and Jodi Taylor
Position: Defense
Grade: Senior
Honors: One-time letter winner
Other sports: Basketball, baseball
College plans: "I'm thinking about going to a state school, like UMD or U of M, and maybe get a degree in engineering, probably mechanical."

Zechariah Kyoore

Parents: Pachal and Martha Kyoore
Position: Center midfielder
Grade: Senior
Honors: Three-time letter winner
Other sports: none
College plans: I haven't chosen where I'm going yet and what I'm going to study. Possibly political science or physical therapy.

Nelson Lund

Parents: Michelle and Kevin Lund
Position: Midfielder
Grade: Senior
Honors: Three-time letter winner, 2018 all-conference honorable mention, 2019 all-conference
Other sports: Basketball, tennis
College plans: "I'm still deciding, but I'm looking at a four-year college, more like a private college, and study liberal arts. It's more like that I'll play tennis in college than soccer."

Logan Moe

Parents: Scott and Sarah Moe
Position: Right wing
Grade: Senior
Honors: Three-time letter winner. "I've been called the bulldozer by my team, but I don't think that's an honor."
Other sports: Hockey, golf
College plans: "I'm looking at Gustavus for soccer and possibly golf. I'm looking at something in the nursing field, like nurse practitioner."

SWIMMING

From Page 1B

All I can do now is lead these younger swimmers and leave behind a competitive and hard working attitude so that when things return to somewhat normal in the following years, they can enjoy the same opportunities that I did in previous ones.

Larson said: "It is a very scary situation, and it affects our team because we can't be high fiving and pumping each other up how we normally do."

St. Peter has 35 swimmers and divers, with about eight divers.

Kelly expects the Saints to be tough to beat and has high goals.

"I want this team to be extremely competitive, I want to walk onto the pool deck at big meets and have the other teams already intimidated because they know we don't back down easily," Kelly said. "Our goal this season is to be more goal oriented and push for success every day in practice. I want to establish a strong work ethic among my teammates and allow them to reach goals they never thought they even could. The potential is there, and our team is ready to prove it."

CAPTAINS LOGS

Morgan Kelly

Parents: Laurie and Matthew Kelly
Events: 100 breaststroke and 20 individual medley
Best event: 100 breaststroke, 1:06.75, broke own school record broken in 2019 dropping from a 1:10 to a 1:06.75; 200 IM, 2:11.70, broke school record in 2019, originally was a 2:13; 200 Medley Relay (breaststroke), 29.79; relay broke school record in 2018
Grade: Senior
Honors: Five-time letter winner, All State 2019, 2-time State Qualifier, 3-time School Record Holder, 1,000 Point Club, 2-time Team MVP

Larson said her goals are: "To get under 26 seconds in the 50 free and to keep positive during hard sets." Her goals for the team are "to get third or higher in true team and for everyone to be cheering during meets."

With 20 returning letter winners, losing only six to graduation and gaining new ones, the Saints have a deep team.

"As a team, we have a majority of our top swimmers and leaders coming back with an abundance of young, hungry swimmers to back them up; however, our team

Other sports: Basketball
College plans: Gustavus Adolphus College, International Management and Spanish
Kathryn Larson
Parents: Maja and Chad Larson
Events: freestyle and individual medley
Best event: freestyle, 27 seconds in the 50 free and a 102 in the 100 free
Grade: Senior
Honors: Five-time letter winner, finaled in section in 11th grade and most improved swimmer in 8th grade
Other sports: softball
College plans: South Central, child development

mentality is what sets us apart from every other team," Kelly said. "Our energy on the pool deck is exciting and really an amazing thing to be a part of and watch. I know this team won't have a problem with having no spectators because we bring enough energy to make the crowds at section meets look weak. This energy and support will lead our team to being the unstoppable competitors I know we are going to be this season."

Larson said her strengths are: "I always have a positive attitude,

and I always try to communicate with everyone on the team. We all have a good bond and can rely on each other."

But there's always room for improvement.

Larson said she "needs to work on individually flip turns and break outs and the team need to work on butterfly and flip turns."

"Individually, I constantly am trying to improve on my physical and mental strength along with continuing to develop my leadership skills," Kelly said. "I am battling a hamstring tear, so I am focusing on the short term goal of getting cleared and back in the water full time before worrying about what my season will look like in 10 weeks."

"For my team, we are going to need girls to fill events they might never have done before, but that's going to make us an unbelievable team. We need to work on being versatile and develop a hard working mentality while still enjoying the sport we love. Also, with the COVID-19 pandemic, we will literally be the only people in the pool during certain meets, which means our team support and energy needs to somehow get more awesome than it already is to make up for the lack of outside people and teams."

ARLINGTON RACEWAY RESULTS AUG. 22

Auto Cross A-Feature

1. Dylan Dahlke 98 Brownton
2. Jayden Voss 16x Le Sueur
3. Aaron Brinkman 54 Gaylord
4. Nick McConnell 30 Henderson
5. Tony Weber 15W Kasota
6. Justin McConnell 01 Henderson
7. Trevor Falk 138 Plato
8. Scott Luke 16 Mayer
9. Justin Forcier 70 Lester Prairie
10. Tyler Schafencamp 34 New Ulm
11. Pete Ybarra 55 North Mankato
12. Mitchell Ulrich 71 New Ulm
- DNF. Travis Schneider 187 New Ulm
- DNF. Gavin Selly 08 St. Peter
- DNF. Craig Peters 42 Le Sueur
- DNS Dakota Roehler 31 Arlington
- DNS Brenna Braunworth 28 Plato
- DNS Andrew Randall 54R St Peter

IMCA Hobby A-Feature

1. Cory Probst 75C Brewster
2. Daniel Probst 175C Worthington
3. Patrick Oestreich 01X Belle Plaine
4. Mason Goettl 99 Winsted
5. Ben Reieron 25 Arlington
6. Nate Manderfield A1 Lake Crystal
7. Luke Trebelhorn 16 Buffalo Lake
8. Edward Dostal 14D Glencoe
9. Jed Trebelhorn 27 Winthrop
10. Joe Regner 5R Winthrop
11. Jordan Robinson 72 Marshall
12. Scott Koep 19 Winthrop
13. Taylor Manderfield 18m Mankato
14. Chad Vollz 32 Lake Crystal
15. Sarah Moriarty 1v Jordan
- DNS Colton Burke 81 Redwood Falls

IMCA Sport Compact A-Feature

1. Brett McConnell 50 Henderson
2. Austin Friedrich 18x St James
3. Justin Dose 81D Biscay
4. Rj Esqueda 16 Granada
5. Levi Selly 99jr St. Peter
6. Gavin Maass 40M Mankato
7. Alan Lahr 54 Nicollet
8. David Marshall(r) 76m Buffalo Lake
9. Emily Senne 24 North Mankato
10. Michael Iii Salisbury 23s South Haven
11. Moriah Callahan 27 Winthrop
12. Nicole Kelzer 53 Plato
- DNF. Eric Stocker(r) 3.2% Good Thunder
- DNF. Josh Black 08J North Mankato
- DNF. Gary Schumacher 51x Maplewood
- DNF. Broc Braunworth 40 Plato
- DNF. Tim Senne 21s North Mankato
- DNF. Matthew Speiss 23m Belle Plaine

IMCA SportMods A-Feature

1. Jason Schroeder 74J Plato

2. Eric Larson 7L Madison Lake
3. Jeff Carter 2J Mapleton
4. John Albrecht 48 Glencoe
5. Jeff McCollum 27 Mankato
6. Dan Paplow 25x Dundee
7. Mike Kennedy 22k Madison Lake
8. Jeff Lloyd 75 Le Center
9. Chris Plamann 35X Hutchinson
10. J.j. Reimers 3J Belle Plaine
11. Kyle Campbell(r) 15 Northfield
12. Tiffany Maus 8 South Haven
13. Ben Doesscher 21j Clara City
- DNF. John Rebstock 39R Franklin
- DNF. Chris Neisen 18X Henderson

Modifieds A-Feature

1. Brandon Beckendorf 5 Danube
2. Clint Hatlestad 74C Glencoe
3. Chad Porter 12 Madison Lake
4. Todd Stinehart 7s Waseca
5. Mark Noble 74 Blooming Prairie
6. Dan Menk 19M Franklin
7. Josh Ruby 30 Lakota, Iowa
8. Rick Nelson 71N Hutchinson
9. Nick Steinhaus 02 Hutchinson
10. Brian Shaughnessy 2x Le Center
- DNF. Trent Loverude 11 Courtland
- DNF. Ryan Bjerkeset 00 Saint Peter
- DNF. Nate Zimmerman 0x Janesville
- DNF. Kent Willms 4k Willmar
- DNS Jonah Padgett 55 Le Sueur

Outlaw Hobby A-Feature

1. Rodney Manthey 11R Norwood
2. Dakota Robinson 34 Arlington
3. Mori Oestreich 2d Henderson
4. Randy Melvin 18 Mankato
5. Darrell Eckblad 10E Henderson
6. Shawn Harms 7 Green Isle
7. Mike Vogt 39 New Auburn
8. Karl Hewitt Jr 3K Carver
9. Marschall Robinson 3 Arlington
10. Michael Weidert 22W Lismore
11. Jonathan Schroeder 7k Belle Plaine
12. Scott Oestreich 4X Belle Plaine
13. Tyler Manthey 11 Nya
14. Luke Rohde(r) 17R Green Isle
15. Travis Koester 53 Hutchinson
- DNF. Mark Oestreich 0x Belle Plaine
- DNF. Brad Schnepf 00 Waseca
- DNF. Bryan Apitz 44 New Ulm

Sprint Cars A-Feature

1. Bill Johnson 56 St. Peter
2. Michael Stien 4s Ceylon
3. Jeremy Schultz 33S Stewart
4. Javen Ostermann 5 Courtland
5. Justin Allen 22 Gaylord
6. Neil Stevens 66 Bingham Lake
7. Rick Schroeder 27 Montevideo
8. Brandon Allen 05 St. Peter



Billy Johnson (56) of St. Peter wins the IMCA Sprint Car feature again.

9. Brandon Buysse 24 New Ulm
10. Brett Allen 21 Gaylord
11. Nolan Herd(r) 88 Arlington
12. Bruce Allen 55 Mankato
- DNF. Andrew Allen 00 Gaylord

Stock Cars Heat 1

1. Jeff Larson 7L Lakefield
2. Dan Mackenthun 92 Hamburg
3. Daniel Eckblad 18x St. Peter
4. Kyren Porter(r) 12 Le Center
5. Taylor Willms 15X Willmar
6. Trevor Holm 17 Chandler
7. Josh Larsen 71 Glencoe

Truck Auto Cross A-Feature

1. Brice Reieron 27 Arlington
2. Bob Bruins 851 Silver Lake
3. Justin McConnell 01 Henderson
4. Mike McConnell 90 Henderson
5. Nick McConnell 30 Henderson
6. Dakota Bryant 48 Hutchinson
7. Ben Klaers 78 Arlington
8. Derrek Schmidt 26LL Glencoe
9. Everett Bryant 49 Hutchinson
- DNF. Blake Teubert 96x Glencoe



With his entourage, IMCA Sport Compact Winner No. 50 Brett McConnell of Henderson takes the checked flag first.

Martin Luther fall sports season suspended

NEW ULM— Martin Luther College is suspending all athletic contests for the fall sports season following a vote by the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) Council of Presidents/Chancellors this weekend.

The decision suspends fall competition for the golf and cross country teams and closes the window for fall competition for the volleyball and soccer teams.

The UMAC previously voted to postpone the volleyball, football and soccer seasons until the spring, but the Knights were

hopeful to compete in an abbreviated schedule in volleyball and soccer this fall.

The Council of Presidents/Chancellors supported a recommendation from the UMAC Council of Athletic Directors late last week. The Athletic Directors voted to suspend the fall season following new changes by the NCAA Board of Governors in their requirements for competition, as well as a recommendation from the NCAA Division III Administrative Council for no competition this fall.

While competition has been

suspended, practices are still allowed for fall sports. All eight MLC fall sports (football, volleyball, soccer, cross country and golf) will hold practices and strength and conditioning opportunities, while non-traditional sports seasons for baseball and softball will also be provided this fall.

The UMAC and its leadership councils continue to pursue the potential for spring seasons and championship events for all suspended fall sports. Announcements on those decisions will come at a later time.

DNR sets 2 confiscated hunting, fishing equipment auctions for this fall

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has scheduled two public auctions of confiscated fishing, hunting and trapping equipment. The auctions, which will be held online because of the COVID-19 pandemic, include 501 firearms, 71 bows and a variety of other equipment. All of the equipment was confiscated as a result of serious game and fish violations.

The auctions are scheduled for Sept. 19 and Oct. 24. The bidding catalogs will be avail-

able online in advance of each auction, Sept. 15 for the Sept. 19 auction and Oct. 20 for the Oct. 24 auction. The catalog for each auction will include a written description and photos of each item. Onsite inspection is available at Hiller Auction Service in Zimmerman from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Friday before each auction. All equipment will be sold as is, including all defects or faults, known or unknown. Once purchased, items cannot be returned. Background checks

are required of anyone who purchases a firearm.

Revenue from confiscated equipment auctions goes into the Game and Fish Fund, the DNR's primary fund for delivering fish, wildlife and law enforcement programs.

For more information, see DNR Enforcement's auction page. A list of equipment to be auctioned will be available about a month before each individual auction at the Hiller Auction Service website (link is external).

DNR urges people to take precautions to keep bears away

By DNR NEWS RELEASE

A shortage of natural foods is causing more bear-human conflicts in northeastern and north-central Minnesota as bears gravitate toward food sources at homes, cabins and campsites.

"We're asking people to remove food sources that could attract bears from their properties or campsites," said Andrew Tri, a bear biologist for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "It's important that folks be extra vigilant in keeping trash and birdseed away from bears to ensure they don't get an easy meal from what people leave out."

Dry conditions in the northeast and north-central part of the state have caused the natural food shortage. Human-bear conflicts are amplified in these areas when attractants (such as garbage, birdseed or coolers of food) are abundant and not protected from bears.

Dumpsters should be fitted with locking steel lids. Trash containers should be put in a locked shed or garage. Property owners also may erect an energized fence around a trash can to keep bears from getting into it. The DNR has



Black bears are on the prowl now for food to fill up for winter hibernation. (Photo courtesy of Minnesota DNR)

information online about these fences.

Bird feeders in northeastern and north-central Minnesota should be removed until mid-November and spilled seed should be cleaned up. If one person in a neighborhood feeds birds, a bear will remain in the area.

Campers, especially those who use remote campsites, should fol-

low "Leave No Trace" principles (link is external). Plan ahead. Pack out trash and dispose of it properly. Store coolers out of sight in a locked vehicle or in bear-resistant containers PDF (link is external). Carry bear spray and learn to use it properly.

"If bears are in the area, let your neighbors, homeowners association or lake-owners as-

sociation and fellow campers know about it so everybody keeps potential attractants away from bears," Tri said. "Together, we can reduce conflicts with bears and avoid teaching them bad habits."

Black bears are the only bear species that lives in Minnesota. Bears are more common in the forested region of northern Minnesota but can live anywhere in

the state if they find suitable habitat. They usually are shy and flee when encountered but become bolder when their natural foods are in short supply.

Don't approach or try to pet a bear. Injury to people is rare but as with all wild animals, people need to be cautious and give bears plenty of space.

Avoid bear conflicts by following these tips

Store garbage in bear-resistant garbage cans or dumpsters. Keep garbage inside a secure building (not a screened porch) until the morning of pickup.

If there is not a secure building to put bear attractants in, erect an energized fence around trash or any other item attractive to bears (e.g., fruit trees, animal feed, gardens and compost piles).

When camping, pack out trash, dispose of it properly, and store food in bear-resistant containers or in a locked vehicle or camper.

Avoid feeding birds from April 1 to Nov. 15.

If you still wish to feed birds, hang birdfeeders 10 feet up and 4 feet out from the nearest trees. Use a rope and pulley system to refill birdfeeders, and clean up

spilled seeds daily.

Do not leave food from barbecues and picnics outdoors, especially overnight. Standard coolers are not bear-proof, but there are lockable, bear-resistant models available.

Pick fruit from your trees and collect any fallen fruit promptly. If not feasible to pick all the fruit, protect trees from damage by using an energized fence.

More bear information

If bear problems persist after cleaning up food sources, contact a DNR area wildlife office for advice. For the name of the local wildlife manager, contact the DNR Information Center at 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367, or find wildlife area office contact information on the DNR website.

The DNR does not relocate problem bears because it does not resolve the underlying issue, which is often unsecured attractants provided by people. Relocated bears may return or become a problem somewhere else.

For more about living and recreating in bear habitat, visit the DNR website. Additionally, the bearwise.org (link is external) website offers excellent information.