



Lake Conference NOTES

Double perfection for first time in history

The Hopkins girls basketball team and the Eden Prairie boys basketball team joined forces to make history this year.

For the first time ever, boys and girls teams from the Lake Conference both posted undefeated seasons, with the Hopkins girls finishing 30-0 and the Eden Prairie boys finishing 28-0.

The irony is that neither team officially won a state championship because high school league sports were suspended the morning of March 13. Hopkins was scheduled to play Farmington in the state girls basketball championship game on Saturday, the 14th. On Friday, the 13th, Eden Prairie was scheduled to play Shakopee in the Section 2AAAA title game. Both teams were ranked No. 1 in the state poll by Minnesota Basketball News.

Brian Cosgriff, head coach of the Hopkins girls team, who will enter next season with a 62-game winning streak said, "It was unfortunate we didn't have a chance to finish the season, but the No. 1 national ranking [from ESPN] is a nice consolation."

Dave Flom, Eden Prairie's boys coach, has taken the Eagles to state eight times in the past decade, but had never had an undefeated season before. Austin Andrews, Connor Christensen, Drake Dobbs and John Henry all made the All-Lake team along with junior Will Foster.

Another Lake record in boys basketball

While we're on the subject of basketball records in the Lake Conference, the boys scoring race was torrid in 2019-20. For the first time in the long history of the conference, three Lake players averaged at least 25 points per game for the same season.

Kerwin Walton of Hopkins led the way with a 26.9 average, while Matthew Willert of Buffalo was second at 25.3. Minnetonka's Cameron Steele scored an even 25 per game.

Halligan lands a baseball scholarship at Xavier

Will he be the first Hopkins pitcher to make the Majors?

By JOHN SHERMAN
john.sherman@apegcm.com

Like most high school pitchers with a 92 mile-per-hour fastball, 2020 Hopkins graduate Miles Halligan can picture himself in a Major League uniform someday.

If that dream comes true, he will be the first Hopkins pitcher to stand on a Major League mound. Even though Hopkins has had many great pitchers in the past, none of them has earned the big money. Some of those who preceded Halligan - Mike Pavelka, Ryan Kjos, Keelan Conley, Greg Narr, Al Pierson, Matt Borman and a few others - took their shots and for a variety of reasons fell short.

"Since there was no high school baseball season this year [due to the corona virus pandemic], all I can do is focus on the future," Halligan said. "My long-term goal is to play in the Major Leagues. That has been my dream for a long time. We'll see what happens when I play in college."

Halligan has a scholarship to play for Xavier University just outside of Cincinnati, Ohio. After sifting through Division I offers, the 6-foot-2, 190-pound righthander found a home. Xavier is located about five minutes from downtown Cincinnati.



(SUN PHOTO BY JOHN SHERMAN)

Hopkins righthander Miles Halligan delivers a pitch during a game against Wayzata at the Hopkins High ball field last spring.

nati. "It's the same as the distance from downtown Minneapolis to Golden Valley," Halligan said. "Xavier is a beautiful school with a great coaching staff. And they are giving me the opportunity to be a two-way player."

Two-way players are rare in Division I baseball, but Halligan's performance at Hopkins High during the 2018 and 2019 seasons proved he has the tools. When he wasn't pitching, he often played a corner infield position at first base or third or served as designated hitter. There was never any question about his hitting. His ability to hit line drives

with gap power made him a threat in the middle of the Royals' order.

Hopkins finished sixth in the State Class 4A Tournament last season and would have been one of the favorites this spring.

"I really think we could have won the state title," Halligan said. "It's a bummer we didn't have that chance. We had four Division I commits in the lineup." The others are senior pitcher-outfielder Joey Hurth, senior outfielder Parker Johnson and junior infielder-catcher Jake Perry, who made a verbal commitment to the University of Minnesota.

Hurth, the other Hop-

kins pitcher who has surpassed 90 on the radar gun, will play baseball on scholarship for Indiana State University. He has been Halligan's long-time friend and teammate.

"Miles is a great teammate," Hurth said. "He is one of those guys who is always positive. He has an infectious personality and inspires confidence in his teammates."

As a pitcher, Halligan isn't like the typical fastballer, although the fastball is his main weapon.

"My most effective pitch might be the changeup," Halligan said. "And my curve is there, too. I am continuing to work on the

slider."

Before he turned his attention to pitching, Halligan was a catcher in youth baseball.

"I like to be in on the action, and pitching and catching keep you involved on every pitch," he said. "I love the pressure and the adrenaline when I'm on the mound. That is what makes me perform."

When he was growing up and starting to play sports, Halligan didn't have to look far to find a role model. His grandfather Bobby Bryant was a retired Minnesota Vikings defensive back, who had played not only football, but also baseball, as a student-athlete at the University of South Carolina.

"I see him about once a year," Halligan said. "It's fun to have someone in my family who played in the NFL."

Halligan played football for a while, but quit in his freshman year to spend more time training for baseball. He was a varsity hockey player, but put the skates away prior to his senior year.

Hopkins' star pitcher is the son of Steve and Jennifer Halligan. He graduated with a 3.2 GPA and his initial plan is to major in sports management in college. Halligan treasures his time in the Hopkins baseball program and the opportunity to be coached by Jason Mihalakis. He wants to make Hopkins proud when he goes to the next level this fall.

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Carter Coughlin receives Big Ten Medal of Honor

Former EP football star is New York Giants' draft choice

By JOHN SHERMAN
john.sherman@apegcm.com

This spring has been good to former Eden Prairie High football standout Carter Coughlin.

First, he was selected by the New York Giants in the NFL

draft. And later, he received the 106th-annual Big Ten Conference Medal of Honor, which was presented to one male and one female athlete from each conference school.

Coughlin, who played for Eden Prairie coaching legend Mike Grant, was named to the All-Big Ten second team in football in his junior and senior seasons, 2018-19. He finished his career with 159 tackles, 107 of them solos. He ranks third all-time on the Go-

phers' quarterback sack list with 22 and 1/2. And stands fourth in career tackles for loss with 40. In addition, he forced seven fumbles.

An All-Big Ten Academic Team selection during his last three seasons at Minnesota, Coughlin comes from a family of Gophers. His grandfather, Tom Moe, played football and baseball at the U of M and later served his alma mater as interim athletic director. Tom's son Mike played football for the Gophers, and Robert Coughlin,

Carter's dad, was also a Gopher football player. Jennie (Moe) Coughlin, Carter's mother, was a state singles tennis champion at Edina High before going on to play collegiately for the Gophers.

Carter Coughlin graduated from the U of M in 2019 with a degree in business and marketing education.

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Eagles' graduating class shines in basketball, hockey

Officially, no titles, but lots of success

By **JOHN SHERMAN**
john.sherman@apegcm.com

Eden Prairie High's Class of 2020 had great success in athletics.

Although there were no official state championships in 2019-20, the Eagle boys basketball team hit a high water mark with a 28-0 record and a No. 10 ranking from ESPN. Coach Dave Flom's team was not able to complete its state-championship journey because the coronavirus pandemic wiped out not only the State Class 4A Tournament, but also the Eagles' section championship game against Shakopee.

The EP boys hockey team almost brought home the third state championship of coach Lee Smith's distinguished career, but the fell short against Hill-Murray in the state finals at Xcel Energy Center.

Eden Prairie's girls basketball team won a state berth by upsetting top-seeded Chaska in the Section 2AAAA finals. The Eagle girls Nordic skiing team also won a state berth, while the boys aquatics team took third in state. In the text below, the Eden Prairie Sun Sailor sports



(SUN PHOTO BY JOHN SHERMAN)

Eden Prairie forward Austin Andrews slips inside the Hopkins defense for two points on the way to another win during the Eagles' 28-0 boys basketball season.

staff recognizes 25 Eden Prairie athletes who contributed significantly to the school's sports legacy during their high school careers. There are many other 2020 EP graduates who shared in contributing to this ongoing success story.

Austin Andrews

As a four-year starter for the Eden Prairie High boys basketball team, Andrews was consistently on the All-Lake Conference squad.

Tyler Beaupre

The Eden Prairie High boys soccer captain led the Eagles in scoring and won a spot on the All-Lake Conference squad.

Rachel Boelke

One of Eden Prairie's most accomplished all-around athletes, Boelke earned All-Lake Conference honors in soccer and Nordic skiing in 2019-20.

Kareena Bovitz

Bovitz helped the Eden Prai-

rie High girls Nordic skiing team earn a trip to the 2020 State Meet at Giants Ridge in Biwabik.

Carrie Byrnes

Byrnes is a dynamic combo athlete, who starred for the Eden Prairie girls soccer and hockey teams in 2019-20.

Jake Derouin

Possibly the best all-around athlete among boys in the graduating class, Derouin earned all-conference honors in cross country running, swimming and track during his career.

Drake Dobbs

Dobbs averaged 19 points per game while leading the Eden Prairie High boys basketball team in assists. He was a Mr. Basketball of Minnesota final five candidate and a first-team All-State Selection.

Cole Christensen

Christensen's scoring, rebounding and defense played a huge role in Eden Prairie's 28-0 boys basketball record, as he added another All-Lake Conference award to his resume.

Soren Dunn

Notsurprisingly, the four-time All-Lake Conference swimmer was Eden Prairie's leader in the State Class AA Meet, winning

championships in the 50- and 100-yard freestyles.

Leah Eng

Eng earned a spot on the All-Lake Conference girls soccer team for her work on the defensive side of the field.

John Henry

The EP boys basketball guard made third-team All-State with a 17.4 scoring average. The highlight of his season was making a school-record 10 three-point shots in a win over Cambridge-Isanti.

Sydney Langseth

A first-team All-State selection and Ms. Hockey of Minnesota finalist, Langseth was the leading scorer in the Lake Conference for the second straight year.

Carver Magnani

Magnani was one of the best defenders in Lake Conference boys soccer last fall and also emerged as the Eagles' second leading scorer.

Madison Magnani

The Eden Prairie High girls tennis team was younger than usual last fall and needed Magnani's leadership. She was the

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Aquatics titles among best moments for Minnetonka

Senior class leaves its mark all across sports spectrum

By **JOHN SHERMAN**
john.sherman@apegcm.com

Minnetonka might soon be recognized as the Swim Capitol of Minnesota, based on its wins in the State True Team Meets for both girls and boys in 2019-20.

The Skipper girls upset Edina to win the girls crown last fall, while the boys also defeated runner-up Edina for the boys title. Dan Berve capped a highly successful Minnetonka coaching career by winning the girls True Team title. Coaches Kristen Phillips and Robby Kendall were co-coaches of the state-champion boys team.

The Sun Sailor sports staff would like to recognize 25 seniors who dis-



(SUN PHOTO BY JOHN SHERMAN)

Minnetonka High volleyball star Skyler Germann (10) led her team to state and was named a finalist for the Miss Volleyball of Minnesota Award.

tinguished themselves in Tonka athletics this school year. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic wiped out the entire spring sports season, but the Skippers did enough in

the fall and winter seasons to make it another memorable year.

Bella Buenting

After winning 12 athletic letters, Buenting accepted

a scholarship offer to compete in triathlon for Division II Daemen College in Amherst, New York.

Jacob Dominski

Minnetonka High's boys soccer team finished second in the Lake Conference to Edina with Dominski making big plays in the midfield. He was named to the All-Lake team.

Skyler Germann

Tonka's three-time All-Lake volleyball player finished off Chaska with timely kills in the Section 2AAA finals. She was named All-Lake and All-State and was chosen as a finalist for the Miss Volleyball of Minnesota Award.

Olivia Graupmann

Graupmann starred in goal for the Lake-champion Minnetonka girls soccer team and was also the leader of the Skipper Nordic skiing team.

Thomas Graupmann

The Minnetonka senior

earned a place on the All-Lake Nordic skiing team as the Skippers claimed the conference championship over Wayzata.

Dylan Green

Green joined classmate Thomas Graupmann as another member of the All-Lake Nordic boys skiing team.

Elliott Ische

Minnetonka's senior linebacker and captain led the Skipper football team in tackles during the 2019 campaign. He made the All-West District team in Class 6A.

Emilia Johnson

In her senior season with the Minnetonka girls soccer team, Johnson won first-team All-State honors and repeated as an All-Lake Conference selection.

JoJo Jorgenson

Jorgenson finished her Minnetonka High girls swimming career with a bang. After helping the

Skippers win the State True Team Meet, she was just as good in the MSHSL Meet, leading off a 200-yard freestyle relay that earned All-American honors.

Braedon Lacomby

A sensational senior year for this Minnetonka boys hockey forward earned him a spot on the All-Lake Conference squad.

Teddy Lagerback

One of the best clutch performers in the senior class, Lagerback led the Skipper boys hockey team to second place in the Lake Conference. He was all-conference and All-State and led his team in scoring as captain along with James Miller.

Max Lauerma

Lauerma made the All-State team in cross country running last fall and most likely would have been All-State in track if the season had not

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(SUN PHOTO BY JOHN SHERMAN)

Eden Prairie girls basketball seniors Nneka Obiazor (left) and Natalie Mazurek led their team to a State Class 4A Tournament berth.

Eagles

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one Eagle senior who earned a place on the All-Lake Conference team.

Natalie Mazurek

Eden Prairie girls basketball coach Ellen Wiese could look to this 6-4 center for a double-double almost every night. Mazurek led the Eagles to a State Class 4A Tournament berth.

John Mittelstadt

Eden Prairie hockey coach Lee Smith said that Mittelstadt is "everything I look for in a captain." The senior center repeated as an All-Lake player and was the Eagles' second leading scorer.

Nneka Obiazor

In her senior season with the Eden Prairie High girls basketball team, Obiazor's solid play helped the Eagles gain a state berth with section wins over Minnetonka and Chaska.

Liesl Paulsen

Paulsen starred in the three endurance sports - cross country running, Nordic skiing and track - during her EP career. She won the Athena Award as the school's most outstanding senior female athlete.



(SUN PHOTO BY JOHN SHERMAN)

Zach Spears of Eden Prairie won All-Lake Conference honors in cross country running and Nordic skiing.

Ben Sather

Sather was elected captain of the EP football and track teams. He made All-West District as a football defensive back. During his junior year, he finished second in state in the pole vault.

Zach Spears

Spears was the No. 1 Nordic skier in the Lake Conference this winter and won a berth to ski in the State Meet at Giants Ridge in Biwabik. He made All-Lake Conference teams in both Nordic skiing and cross country.

Ben Steeves

A transfer student who moved from New Hampshire to Eden Prairie this year, Steeves was the Eagles' top scorer in boys hockey this winter. He was a finalist for the Mr. Hockey of Minnesota Award.

Michael Tomsche

As a cornerback for the Eden Prairie football team the tough-tackling Tomsche covered some of the best wide receivers in the state in West District games. He was chosen for the All-District team.

Cheo Trotter

Trotter, Eden Prairie's stalwart defensive lineman, had a big year as one of the best run stoppers in Class 6A West District football. He was named All-District.

Nora Wagner

Wagner was a fine addition to Eden Prairie's third line in girls hockey, playing alongside the two leading scorers - Sydney Langseth and Grace Kuipers.

Fred Zach

Eden Prairie High football coach Mike Grant could count on Zach to play on both sides of the ball as a star linebacker and dependable running back.

Skippers

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been canceled.

Chloe Loberg

Loberg, an all-conference midfielder for the Tonka girls soccer team, averaged almost an assist a game with her ability to place corner kicks in front of the goal.

Kayla Mahabadi

A two-year All-Lake Conference player, Mahabadi was among the defensive standouts for the Lake-champion Minnetonka girls soccer team.

Lacey Martin

For the second year in a row, Minnetonka's girls hockey center, was the team's leading scorer. She helped the Skippers place third in the State Class AA Tournament.

Kylie Melz

An outstanding all-around performer in Skipper girls athletics, Melz competed in 10 state meets and won a total of 14 letters in four sports - soccer, cross country, hockey and track.

Maggie Nicholson

Nicholson won Minnetonka's Athena Award as the most outstanding senior female athlete. In her junior and senior seasons, the star defenseman was first-team All-State. She has won a scholarship to play for the University of Minnesota.

Eli Quist

The Minnetonka boys Alpine skiing team took third place in the state team standings. Quist did his part by finishing third in the individual competition at Giants Ridge in Biwabik.

Andres Rivas

The star defender for the Minnetonka High boys soccer team won All-Lake Conference and All-State honors in his senior year. He was a three-year starter for coach Mike Rogers.

Niko Scheibal

Minnetonka High's boys soccer defender won his second straight first-team All-State award last fall. He was Minnetonka's second leading scorer behind junior forward Dylan Olson, netting most of his goals on set pieces.

Emma Seifker

Seifker, Minnetonka's girls gymnastics captain, qualified for state in two events for the second straight year.

Cameron Steele

Steele, a three-year All-Lake Conference performer, finished third in Lake boys basketball

scoring this winter with an average of 25 points per game.

Sandler Tollefson

Tollefson's gritty play as a Minnetonka linebacker earned him a spot on the All-West District football team in Class 6A.

John Wargin

Wargin emerged as Minnetonka's most outstanding swimmer. After leading the Skippers to the state True Team title, he starred in the MSHSL Meet with second place in the medley relay, third places in the 200 free relay and the 100-yard breaststroke and fourth place in the 200-yard individual medley.

Jelena Zbiljic

Zbiljic's outstanding play in the midfield keyed Minnetonka's dominance as the Lake Conference and Section 2AA champions in girls soccer.

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