



## Stars OF THE WEEK

### Ann Brilley

Brilley, who plays out of Baker National Golf Course, took sixth place in the Second Flight of the State Women's Senior Amateur Tournament last week at Woodhill Country Club in Wayzata.

### Lacey Martin

The 2019-20 Minnetonka High girls hockey captain is entering her freshman season with the Boston University women's team. Martin had 50 points on 28 goals and 22 assists last season and helped the Skippers place third behind Andover and Edina in the State Class AA Tournament at Xcel Energy Center. The two-time All-Lake Conference skater was chosen for USA Hockey's Under-18 Select Camp each of the last two years and was named to the Minnesota State High School League's All-Tournament team in 2019. She was Minnetonka's MVP for 2019-20.

### Adele Peterson

Peterson won the championship by four strokes in the State Women's Senior Amateur Championship Flight last week at Woodhill Country Club. The Bearpath golfer had rounds of 80 and 76 for a two-day total of 156. Second with 160 was Betsy Aldrich, a Woodhill member. Claudia Pilot of Grand View Lodge took home third-place honors.

### Brenda Williams

The Windsong Farm golfer placed fifth in the Championship Flight in last week's State Women's Senior Amateur Tournament with rounds of 81 and 84 at Woodhill Country Club.

### Woodhill Golfers

Playing on her home course at Woodhill Country Club in Wayzata, Rice was Second Flight champion in the State Women's Senior Amateur Tournament last week. She shot rounds of 90 and 88 for a 178 total in the two day event. Also playing well was Mary Jackley of Woodhill, who placed third in the Second Flight.



(SUN PHOTO BY JOHN SHERMAN)

Left fielder Mike Davis lands on top of the Minnetonka Millers victory celebration after they beat the Minneapolis Cobras 9-6 for the State Class A Amateur Baseball Tournament title Aug. 23 at Palm Field in St. Anthony Village. At the center of the mob scene is winning pitcher David Cushing (facing). He was the man during the final three innings in relief of starter Thomas Skoro.

## Fifteen times the state Class A champ

### Minnetonka amateur team is able to meet all baseball challenges

By JOHN SHERMAN  
john.sherman@apgecm.com

Nothing came easily for the Minnetonka Millers in the State Class A Amateur Baseball Tournament last weekend, but when play ended at 8:43 p.m. Sunday at Palm Field in St. Anthony Village, the local club had claimed the 15th state crown in franchise history.

After the Millers accepted the trophy for their 9-6 win over the defending state-champion Minneapolis Cobras, center fielder Blaine Rutledge collected the Pat Holmes MVP trophy.

"It was a full-team effort," Rutledge said. The left-handed leadoff batter saved most of his home runs this summer for the postseason, and despite great performances from his teammates, pitchers Brandon Broxey and Donny Erdall and right fielder Joe Shallenberger, there was no question Rutledge was last weekend's MVP.

"I was seeing the ball well in the State Tournament," said Rutledge, who went two-for-five in the championship game. His three home runs in the State Tournament each seemed to come at a time when the Millers needed them most.

The only low point for Rutledge was dropping a fly ball to open the Cobras' top of the ninth inning Sunday night. The next man walked, but then reliever David Cushing worked his way out of the jam with a scoreless inning. A ground ball to second baseman Jack Hanson with runners

on first and third and one out did the trick. Hanson tagged the runner coming to second and flipped the ball to first baseman Joe Abellera to complete the double play.

"When the runner [coming to second] slowed down, I saw the play," Hanson said. "The Cobras hit non-stop, and they're a great team."

Miller lefthander Thomas Skoro got the ball for the championship game on Sunday after Broxey pitched a 10-3 win over Highland Park in the semifinals earlier. Broxey also won the State Tournament opener the previous weekend.

"I am thankful to [manager] Kevin Hoy for giving me two starts in the tournament," said Broxey, who is 39 years old. He has been with the Millers for 11 of the 15 franchise championships. Only pitcher Adam Goethke (13 titles) and Hoy (all 15) have been around for more.

Hoy is no longer active as a player, but he's still huge in the team's success. An example was his daring base coaching in the championship game against the Cobras. With the aid of two pinch runners, Hoy manufactured two runs, turning a 6-6 tie into an 8-6 lead in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Hanson's single to left should not have been enough to score pinch runner Jordan Amundson from second with two outs, but Hoy sent him anyway. A head-first slide by Amundson beat the tag from Cobra catcher Jeff Miller. Then Hoy waved pinch runner Will Sturek all the way home from second when the Cobras failed to get a force play on Hanson at second after a ground ball.

Shallenberger, who hit a homer in the championship game, had five homers in the playoffs, plus many key RBIs. Third baseman Ryan Pop-



(SUN PHOTO BY JOHN SHERMAN)

Ben Fasnacht of the Minnetonka Millers is about to lose his batting helmet Aug. 22 as he races to third before scoring the go-ahead run in a 7-3 win over Baseball 365.

pitz played great defense and had a streak of five hits in six at-bats.

As Rutledge said, it was a team effort. Erdall pitched a complete game to beat Baseball 365 in the Saturday state game, and was willing to go again Sunday if needed.

Veterans Steve Schmitz, Alex Twenge, Chad Fleischman, Evan Maass, Ben Stolar and the Trygstad brothers, Zack and Connor all had their big moments this year.

The Millers rookies all played their roles in this season's success - twins Mike and Will Sturek, starting shortstop Jarod Wandersee, Hanson, Amundson, Mason Nadolney, Joey Danielson, Wyatt Nelson and Tyson Stritesky. The Millers finished their championship season 34-5 and won all eight of their postseason games. Another great win for this record-setting dynasty.

Follow the Sun sports writers on Twitter @MNSunSports and on Facebook at facebook.com/SunSportsStaff.

## Looking AHEAD

### Boys Soccer Opens

Lake Conference boys soccer gets underway with three league matches Thursday, Aug. 27. Defending state Class AA champion Edina will open the season at Wayzata with a start time of 7:15 p.m. Also at 7:15, the Hopkins Royals will host St. Michael-Albertville. In a 5 p.m. game, Minnetonka will host Buffalo. Edin Prairie steps outside the conference for a 7 p.m. match at Minneapolis Washburn on the 27th.

There will be two Lake Conference boys matches at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, with Minnetonka hosting Hopkins and Edina traveling to St. Michael Albertville. At 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1, Edina will host Edin Prairie in a match at Kuhlman Field.

### Girls Soccer Debuts

Lake Conference girls soccer opens with a full slate of games Thursday, Aug. 27. Wayzata will be at home for a 5 p.m. match against Edina. Also at 5, Hopkins will host St. Michael Albertville and Edin Prairie will travel to Minneapolis Washburn for the head coaching debut of the Eagles' new leader, Kelly Taylor. In a 7:15 match, the Minnetonka girls will be home against Buffalo at Einer Anderson Stadium.

Action continues on Saturday, Aug. 29, with Edina playing an 11 a.m. match at St. Michael-Albertville and Minnetonka playing Hopkins in a 3 p.m. matinee at Minnetonka.

At 5 p.m. Sept. 1, the Edina girls will play Edin Prairie at Kuhlman Field.

### Tennis Matchups

Lake tennis began with several matches earlier this week.

Wayzata is set to play Delano in a 4 p.m. match Thursday, Aug. 27, at Wayzata.

Edin Prairie will play Orono at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 28, at EP's Round Lake Park.

In a 4 p.m. match Monday, Aug. 31, Minnetonka travels to Buffalo. At 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1, Wayzata travels to Breck School.



# Hall-of-Fame trainer retires from Hopkins duties

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

When you love your job, there's never a good time to retire.

But Scott Westermann, an athletic trainer since 1977, has turned in his resignation to the Institute of Athletic Medicine, and his long-time assignment as Hopkins High's trainer will end Sept. 3 of this year.

Several factors entered into Westermann's decision. "With COVID-19 precautions and the need to serve athletes safely, I decided that sitting on the sidelines with almost a hazmat suit on was not for me," Westermann said. "Having worked with some of the finest coaches and high-level athletes over the years, I was ready to hang up the tape and scissors. Besides, I was finally part of a national-championship team and able to go out on top."

The championship team Westermann refers to is the Hopkins girls basketball team that was 30-0 last season. The Royals were crowned national champions in the ESPN poll.

As a trainer who is getting older, Westermann admitted he didn't want to risk exposure to

COVID-19 this fall.

"I was not about to possibly get exposed the virus by some high school athlete or coach who can't follow the guidelines," he said. "I also wanted to enjoy retirement and not miss out on it."

Westermann's first exposure to athletic training came when he was a student at Golden Valley Lutheran College. He was a football student manager at the time, but the school's trainer suddenly announced he was leaving, so Westermann had a crash course in taping ankles, and he was on his way to an eventual career.

He spent nine years training for GVLC's athletes. Westermann got his big break in 1994, when he was hired to work with the University of Minnesota football team and head coach Lou Holtz.

Shortly thereafter, Westermann took a detour into professional sports as a trainer for the Cincinnati Reds' farm team in Greensboro, North Carolina.

"My time there was among the best months of my life," Westermann said. "Riding the bus, living and breathing baseball."

But, as it turned out, Westermann could not reconcile

serving a baseball team for six months with the early years of his marriage to his wife Cyndi, a Hopkins Lindbergh High graduate. So he retired from baseball and accepted a position with the Twin Cities-based Institute for Athletic Medicine. Early assignments took him to Osseo and Maple Grove High Schools and Augsburg College before he settled in at Hopkins.

"At Hopkins High, I had great coaches to work with, and you couldn't ask for a better athletic director than Dan Johnson," Westermann said. "In the training room, I have a wall with pictures of all the Hopkins athletes who have played professionally or competed in the Olympics. Many of the kids who come into the room and see the wall dream of being up there someday."

Westermann's own photo likeness hangs on the wall in the Hopkins Lindbergh Center. Last year he became the only trainer ever inducted into the Hopkins High Athletic Hall of Fame.

"I've been lucky to have great coaches to work with in Hopkins," Westermann said, listing Brian Cosgriff, Al Price, Mike Harris, Pat Marcy and Kenny

Novak Jr. as some of the best coaches he enjoyed working with.

Kenny Novak Jr. said of Smith: "We will miss Scott greatly. He worked so well with coaches and kids. Scott is a no-nonsense guy, who stays in the background until you need him, and then he's there for you. I never had to worry about Scott over-reacting or under-reacting to an injury."

While he retiring as a full-time high school trainer, Westermann will continue with his assignments as an ACT spotter for the NFL at Minnesota Vikings home games. His colleague, Eden Prairie trainer Gary Smith, works with him at the Vikings games.

"In addition to doing the Vikings games, Gary and I did the Super Bowl here," Westermann said.

One thing Smith will miss in retirement is the chance to share the profession with the other long-time trainers in the Lake Conference - Smith, of course, along with Steve Tschida from Edina and Chris Middleton from Wayzata.

"We have great camaraderie among the Lake Conference trainers," Westermann said.



Scott Westermann

"Gary [Smith] is the grandfather figure to the others."

Asked if he had any favorite stories from his training days at Hopkins, Westermann didn't share a joke or a punch line. Instead, he talked about a life he saved.

"In 2009 a gentleman collapsed in the Hopkins weight room," Westermann said. "The hockey coach came and found me, and the man had passed out with a heart attack."

Skilled in the use of the AED (Automated External Defibrillator), Westermann was able to save the man's life. "That is one of those things you don't forget," Westermann said.

## Eden Prairie soccer girls welcome coach Kelly Taylor

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

After serving as a highly successful assistant coach at three west suburban area schools, Kelly Taylor has her first head coaching position.

The new Eden Prairie High girls soccer coach helped Eden Prairie and Minnetonka win state Class AA titles in her time as an assistant coach at each school. She almost did it again when Benilde-St. Margaret's won the third-place medals in the State Class A Tournament.

"It has been a fun week, getting to know the girls," Taylor said Aug. 20. "They have trained hard, and there is a lot of good talent. I came in with eyes wide-open, and I like what I've seen. I didn't know a lot of them before this week, but I did know that Maddie Ishaug, one of our captains, will be going to the University of Wisconsin to play."

As Taylor ran practice last week, she was obviously comfortable in her new role as a head coach. In the past, she was head coach of

many traveling teams with the Tonka United club.

"We need more intensity to win the ball back," she yelled across the field at one point in the Aug. 20 practice.

When one of the Eagle defenders made an own goal on a defensive miscue, Taylor was sympathetic, yet firm.

"I'd rather it happen here than in a week," she said.

"It is good to see everyone working so hard," Ishaug said after practice. She is one of three Eagle captains along with Lauren Becker and Megan Bohlig, who both logged time as starters last season.

"There is a lot of talent in our younger grades," Becker said. "We can trust the team for the coming years."

Bohlig, one of the mainstays on defense as a center back, said, "Three of us in the back were here last year. I am going to give it my all."

"Any three of the varsity midfielders would be super strong," Ishaug said in pointing out one of the team's strengths.

Bohlig said that the new



(SUN PHOTO BY JOHN SHERMAN)

Maddie Ishaug, one of the Eden Prairie soccer captains, has committed to play for the University of Wisconsin.

head coach is having an impact already after replacing another successful coach, Jessica Mueller.

With COVID-19 still a factor this fall, the Eagles have a schedule of 11 games, compared to the usual 16. As of now, there are no playoffs scheduled.

The Eagles are anxious for their first match, which will begin at 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27, at Minneapolis Washburn.

Eden Prairie will face Edina at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1, at Kuhlman Field.

We're **HIRING!**

Multi Media Account Executive

**Adams Publishing, Inc. has an exciting opportunity for a full time Multi Media Account Executive for our Inside Sales Division. We offer a variety of advertising opportunities within our 40 newspapers and 17 websites.**

These products include print ads, network ads, programmatic advertising and more. We are always developing new products and providing training to you on how these can benefit our customers. The ideal candidate will be competitive and creative with a desire to build strong long term relationships with business owners and organizations.

- Services existing customers to insure that all products and services are provided as needed.
- Targets new customers and prospects to provide digital and print solutions to benefit our clients.
- Provides exemplary customer service to both internal and external customers.
- Meets and exceeds monthly sales goals as outlined by Sales Director.
- Works well with others and able to handle multiple tasks simultaneously
- Type 60 wpm with basic knowledge of MS WORD and Excel
- Previous Customer Service Experience
- Ability to communicate effectively both in writing and verbally
- Ability to meet deadlines on a consistent basis



**Qualified candidates please submit your cover letter and resume to: Cheri O'Bannon, Sales Director | cheri.obannon@apgecm.com**



Adams Publishing Group, Inc. offers base plus commission opportunity. Benefits include medical, dental, vision, life insurance, short and long-term disability, paid time off and a 401(k) retirement plan that are available soon after employment starts.



# How's this for a 1-2 punch in tennis?

## State doubles champs lead the Skippers

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

Minnetonka High may have the best 1-2 punch in Minnesota girls prep tennis this year with the return of its state Class AA doubles champions, sophomore Sarah Shahbaz and junior Annika Elvestrom.

Eight of the top 10 Skippers return from last year's team which placed second to Edina in State Class AA Team Tennis.

"I am amazed at the level of play I've seen so far," said Minnetonka head coach Dave Stearns, who is in his 34th season. "We're up a couple notches from last year, and I am very impressed with the improvement each of the players has made."

Shahbaz and Elvestrom concur with that assessment. They played singles during the regular season last year along with several other returning starters - senior captains Sarah Bernet and Emily Jurgens and ninth-grader Karina Elvestrom, Annika's sister.

In tournament play last season, Karina moved to doubles along with Kelsey Phillips, who in Stearns' opinion might be the most improved player this year. "Kelsey is stronger and hitting the ball a ton," Stearns said. "She has grown 3-4 inches since last year. There is no question in my mind that we have four or five girls

on this team who will play Division I tennis in college. We have never had that before in all the years I've been here. We have a lot of nice girls on the team and they are eager for the season."

"We didn't have a summer season because everything shut down with USTA," Annika Elvestrom said. But it wasn't all bad for the junior captain who hit almost every day with her younger sister.

"The team has a great atmosphere with a lot of girls back from last year," Annika said.

"Everyone has improved a lot," Shahbaz said. "Edina [the team that won state last year] is still pretty deep, but we can beat them."

As it stands now, there will not be a State Tournament this fall, due to COVID-19 concerns. However, the girls will play a full Lake Conference schedule with matches against the other six schools - Buffalo, Edina, Eden Prairie, Hopkins, St. Michael-Albertville and Wayzata. Minnetonka will play several Lake opponents twice. There are also non-conference matches scheduled with The Blake School and Orono.

"It doesn't seem like there's going to be a State Tournament, so our focus is on winning the Lake Conference title," Annika Elvestrom said. "That means we have to beat Edina."

At the same time, the Skippers take nothing for granted. "We always have good matches with Hopkins and Wayzata," Annika noted.

When the Skippers took the courts for their round-robin matches last

week, they noticed how nice the resurfaced courts are at the high school.

"I really like the new courts," Shahbaz said.

"They're a little bit slower than the old courts," Elvestrom added.

Both members of the state-champion doubles duo began playing tennis at a young age. Shahbaz started swinging a racquet when she was 2 1/2 years old and was playing tournaments as a 4-year-old. Annika started at 5 and played her first tournament at 9.

"The thing I like about tennis is how everyone has a different game," Shahbaz said.

"I like how it's individual in singles," Annika said. "And I like doubles, too, because you have to work together with a partner."

Coach Stearns is a players' coach, known for his wit and sense of humor. "He's the same old coach this year - always joking," Annika said.

One thing Stearns doesn't joke about is the health and safety of his athletes.

Minnetonka High athletic director Ted Schultz bought two temperature guns for the team, so that the coaches can take temperatures to make sure no one is sick before practice. Hand sanitizer is always available to the players and the coaches encourage the girls to keep their hands clean. He also makes certain that the practice balls are cleaned and sanitized each day. "My main concern is what happens when the players get outside of the team," Stearns said. "That's what keeps me up at night."



(SUN PHOTO BY JOHN SHERMAN)

Minnetonka junior Annika Elvestrom hits a forehand volley during preseason practice on the newly refinished Skipper courts.



(SUN PHOTO BY JOHN SHERMAN)

Sophomore Sarah Shahbaz of the Minnetonka High girls tennis team concentrates on a backhand in practice last week at the high school.

## EP tennis captains are ready to lead State competition for some sports, not yet for others?

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

Coach Alexa Horoshak, known to her Eden Prairie tennis players as 'Coach Alex,' is enthusiastic about the prospects for the 2020 season.

"I am excited the girls can play, even if it's an abbreviated season," she said. "We will win some and lose some. More instruction is possible than in previous years due to the reduced schedule. Every other year I dream about having more practices so we can work on patterns and technique; this year we have more practices."

The schedule was reduced from the usual 16 matches to 11 by the Minnesota State High School League.

With COVID-19 restrictions, both practices and matches have a new look this season. "We are using a lot more tennis balls," Horoshak noted. "Similar to other schools, we've had an increased interest in the sport, as tennis is one of the few sports approved to return to play. No spectators on the courts and spacing on buses [or no buses at all] changes some of the support and camaraderie that the girls usually enjoy."

Six letter winners return for the Eagles, who were a mid-range Lake Conference team last season.

They are sophomore Annika Anderson, who is expected to play first singles, senior captains Thuy-Yen Tran and Carmela Pittaluga, junior captain Katelyn Daravingas, junior Ava Neuman and sophomore Sophia Paul.

New to the varsity this year are senior Abbey Ladegaard, juniors Sami Pomar and Sophia



(SUN PHOTO BY JOHN SHERMAN)

Eden Prairie's girls tennis captains for the 2020 season are, from left, senior Carmela Pittaluga, junior Katelyn Daravingas and senior Thuy-Yen Tran.

Salamekh, sophomore Mary Margaret Mellen, ninth-grader Delaney Smith and eighth-grader Zadie Walvatne.

"I have seen much improvement in the girls from last season," Horoshak said. "I know these girls will compete all the way to the last point, no matter what the outcome!"

Eden Prairie was scheduled to open the season at home against Breck School Tuesday, Aug. 25.

There will be home another match against Orono at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 28, at the Round Lake Park courts in Eden Prairie.

Minnetonka and Edina are the co-favorites in the Lake Conference after finishing second and first at state, respectively, last season. Buffalo, Wayzata, Hopkins, St. Michael-Albertville are the other Lake tennis teams.

Like many other sports followers, I noticed that the Minnesota State High School League posted its fall state meet calendar last week.

While I love the idea of having the State Cross Country Meet Nov. 7, the State Swimming and Diving Meet Nov. 18-20 and the State Adapted Soccer Tournaments Nov. 20-21, it is disappointing there were no state tournaments listed for girls tennis or boys and girls soccer.

With regular-season play ending Oct. 3 for tennis, I see no reason a state tourney could not be held outdoors. One reason for canceling state tennis might be the clustering of fans and players at the Baseline Center, and the fear that COVID-19 would be passed around. However, this fear could be lessened by playing the tournament outdoors.

The same is true for boys and girls soccer - play outdoors, social distance and wear masks in the bench area - the same as teams are doing during the regular season. Have qualifying-school top seeds host the first-round matchups and have only the finals and semifinals



**JOHN SHERMAN**

Sun Newspapers

John Sherman is a sports editor for Sun Newspapers. Contact him at john.sherman@apgecm.com.

at one site - such as one of the big high school stadiums in the Twin Cities or Allianz Field or St. Cloud State's Husky Stadium.

For those who think it's uncomfortable to play soccer outdoors that time of year, talk to Nordic and Alpine skiers at your school.

Before the Metrodome opened downtown in 1982, all playoff soccer matches were outdoors. I remember covering a playoff game at Osseo's Carl Tonn Field in 1980 when the temperature for a morning start was 19 degrees. No one complained, no one got frostbite and no one was injured seriously. Players wore gloves and some wore tights. It worked just fine.