HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Joe Ahlquist / jahlquist@postbulletin.com

Stewartville head volleyball coach John Dzubay talks to his team during a practice on Wednesday. The Tigers are the No. 1-ranked team in Class AA.

TIGERS ROARING AGAIN

Stewartville is back atop state rankings

BY PAT RUFF
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At 70 and now 34 seasons into coaching volleyball at Stewartville High School, John Dzubay has never felt quite this way about a season or a team.

This summer, it was almost too much for the former Stewartville band director.

"I found myself already writing lineups down on paper for this season (over the summer)," he said. "I don't think I'd ever done that before."

There was reason for all of the anticipation. Dzubay, who's coached teams to four state championships at Stewartville, is hoping to get the Tigers back to state for the first time since 2014, when they won it all.

And with this group, he knows the expectation is to do just that — and then some.

Stewartville begins this season ranked No. 1 in Class AA. There are two great reasons for that. One is that it graduated just one senior from last year's 25-5 team, which lost 3-1 to then No. 1-ranked Kasson-Mantorville in the Section 1AA final.

Tigers at a glance

WHO: Stewartville volleyball team

RECORD, RANKING: Stewartville moved to 3-0 with Tuesday's sweep of Faribault Bethlehem Academy. The Tigers are ranked No. 1 in Class AA.

UP NEXT: Stewartville is at the Apple Valley Invitational on Friday.

There is another even more significant reason for optimism, and it's a reality that Dzubay doesn't dodge.

"This might be the most talented team I've ever coached," Dzubay said. "I just hope I don't screw it up."

Dzubay is only half kidding with the "screw-it-up" part.

"I still really enjoy trying to get the most out of kids," he said. "But this group is so good. Sometimes I feel like I've just got to let them play."

Really, there is zero chance of the latter happening. For proof, all one had to do was witness Stewartville's match with Faribault Bethlehem Academy on Tuesday night. After a sloppy Game 1 win by the Tigers, Dzubay had already seen enough.

So he inserted his second string and left them in for the duration. Stewartville wound up winning the match 3-0.

The Tigers starters weren't pleased with sitting out. But they respect Dzubay's opinion and knowledge too much to protest.

COACH'S INFLUENCE

"When Coach Dzubay talks, you listen," said one of those Tigers stars, 6-foot senior outside hitter and future Division I college player (Illinois State) Kaitlyn Prondzinski. "He knows a lot about volleyball. He thought we weren't playing our best, so he put the second team in. He thought they deserved that chance. And they did well. They won the match."

Jotting down starting lineups wasn't the only way that Dzubay spent his summer. There were also a few of his staple trips to the Boundary Waters as well as a month-long journey out west for a friend's wedding in Washington.

See **TIGERS,** Page **B4**

MLB

Hildenberger happy to be back with Minnesota

BY BETSY HELFAND
St. Paul Pioneer Press

BOSTON — Trevor Hildenberger's summer didn't quite go as planned. Instead of pitching for the Twins, the reliever spent much of his time in Fort Myers, Fla., rehabbing from an injury.

He would watch the Twins on TV nightly, cheering on his teammates from afar, catch up on shows on Amazon Prime and eventually, he wound up ordering a lot of stuff he admits he didn't need.

Like what?

"I ordered a sweatshirt in the middle of Florida summer," he said.

When he finally gets back to Minnesota in a few days, Hildenberger will be greeted by "boxes and boxes." He rejoined the Twins, along with Fernando Romero and Ryne Harper, this week, after the Class AAA season concluded. The call-up comes after a difficult season for him which included a solid month of April in the big leagues, a shaky May that led to a demotion and a couple months of being sidelined with a flexor mass strain.

Hildenberger said he worked through some mechanical changes in Rochester when he suffered the injury originally.

"We were in the middle of the process in Rochester," he said. "I was probably overextending myself. I was playing catch longer, throwing more bullpens on top of the normal amount of work, but I feel much better."

Hildenberger believed his arm slot was high so he would lean over more to lower it. As a result, his body would come up early and he would fly open, he said. Once he figured that out with the help of AAA pitching coach Mike McCarthy, he started getting better results. He came off the Injured List on Aug. 20 and threw 8 1/3 scoreless innings in five games for Rochester.

At the beginning of the year, Hildenberger was one of the team's highest-leverage relievers and if he is able to return to form, he could be another valuable option for the Twins out of the bullpen.

"He was not feeling normal or the way he normally does. We wanted to get him into a more comfortable place where he could repeat and do the things that he's done before," manager Rocco Baldelli said. "He's been a good major league reliever in the past. It's in there and we know it's in there. We just have to find a way to bring it out."

See **HILDENBERGER,** Page **B2**

Bruce Kluckhohn / USA TODAY Sports

Minnesota Twins relief pitcher Trevor Hildenberger pitches during a game earlier this season at Target Field. He is one of three relievers called up by Minnesota after the Class AAA season ended this week.

Blooming Prairie Country Club a left-to-right delight

BY ERIC ATHERTON
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When I played golf in high school, my normal ball flight was a fade. My best friend, Don Faulkner, hit a draw.

I envied him. Granted, Don hit his share of pull-hooks, but when he made a good swing, he'd knock it 30 yards past my best drive. That draw could cut through the wind and would roll and roll, while my fade would get eaten up by the wind and would kick sideways when it landed.

Off and on for the past three decades, I've tried to learn to hit a draw. I can do it — about two times out of 10. Those two drives are things of beauty, but the other eight are disasters.

A couple weeks ago, I gave up (not for the first time, I admit). I decided I'm better off fading the ball 220 yards into the fairway, rather than hooking it 240 yards and into the woods.

Then last week, I played Blooming Prairie Country Club — and it felt like coming home.

The course dates back to 1936. I haven't been able to identify the original architect, but whoever he was, I'm betting he hit the ball from left to right. I won't go so far as to call the course a slicer's delight, but it's darn close.

BPCC, like most of the 9-hole courses I've played so far this summer, doesn't rely on length to defend itself. From the back tees it measures just 3,026 yards, and big hitters will have no difficulty reaching both of the par 5s in two.

WATCH FOR WATER

But water and wetlands abound. Much of it is largely ornamental and probably catches very few balls, but if you hit a wedge fat or pull a drive, you can get wet on several holes.

The course has just a handful of nicely maintained bunkers, and they're very much in play. The first hole, for example — a short par 5 that measures 456 yards from the back tees — has two deep traps that guard the front of the green. I avoided them, and I'm very glad I did.

The greens, simply put, are wonderful. They hadn't been mowed the day I played, so they rolled fairly slowly, but they were smooth and nearly immaculate. Some are small, while others are borderline huge, and many of the greens fall off steeply just a foot or two into the fringe, which makes for some interesting chips back up to the pin.

Plus, several of the greens (Nos. 5, 6 and 8) have recently been expanded to add collection areas that offer some knee-knocking, huge-breaking putts.

I'd describe the fairways as generous and quite firm. The rough, if you happen to find it, isn't punitive, so the biggest problem if you miss the fairway is the trees. I only had to play out sideways once, but this is definitely a course where you want to ask yourself, "Where is the good miss?"

A FORGIVING COURSE

And really, that's one of the things I look for in a golf course. The average player needs places to bail out — and BPCC has such spots on nearly every hole.

The best example of that is No. 9, a 300-yard par 4 with water down the left side. While the fairway starts out fairly narrow, on the right side it opens up considerably after about 150 yards, and a well-struck drive that misses right will usually leave a wide-open look at the pin. I missed the fairway but had just 60 yards left and nothing in my way. I missed a 15-footer for birdie, but it was my easiest par of the day.

See **BLOOMING,** Page **B4**

Sports

NFL

John Autey / Pioneer Press

Tight end Irv Smith Jr. jogs during the Minnesota Vikings Rookies minicamp at Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center in Eagan in May. He'll play against his future brother-in-law this weekend when the Vikings host Atlanta.

It's a family affair for Vikings' Smith

Rookie TE to line up against his future brother-in-law

BY CHRIS TOMASSON
St. Paul Pioneer Press

EAGAN — When Vikings rookie tight end Irv Smith Jr. and Falcons linebacker Duke Riley got together early this summer in Atlanta, there was some trash talking.

The Vikings open the regular season at noon Sunday against the Falcons at U.S. Bank Stadium, and Smith and Riley figure to run into each other on the field. But it won't be a typical matchup.

Riley is the fiance of Smith's sister, Ciera Matamores.

"We were messing with each other," Smith said of his recent visit to Atlanta to see Riley and his sister. "He's probably going to have to cover me a little bit and I'll have to block him a little bit. I told him I'm going to definitely try to catch a touchdown on him."

Not surprisingly, Matamores has been torn about who she will cheer for Sunday. Both Smith and Riley are listed as second-team players, but both are in line to see action from scrimmage and on special teams.

"It's a tough one," said Matamores, who has known Riley for about six years and said a wedding date has not been set. "It's a house divided. I don't have a definitive answer for that. I'll root for them both."

Smith is counting on his sister pulling for him.

"I'm her little brother, so I feel that deep down she'll be going for me," he said. "She's known me longer than him. … But she could wear one of those split jerseys. That'd be cool."

Smith, 21, and Matamores, 29, have the same mother, Rose Matamores. Smith's father is Irv Smith Sr., an NFL tight end from 1993-99.

Smith's uncle is Ed Smith, an NFL tight end from 1997-99, including 1997-98 with the Falcons. But Ed Smith, who played in Atlanta's 30-27 overtime win at Minnesota in the 1998 NFC Championship Game, said there's no doubt who he will be cheering for Sunday.

"Blood is thicker than colors, man," he said. "I'm a transformed Vikings fan now. That's my No. 1 team."

About 20 of Smith's family members plan to be on hand, including his sister, mother, father and uncle. His mother and sister will make a roughly 17-hour drive along with Elijah Matamores, the 3-year-old son of Matomores and Riley, who is unable to fly because he is prone to seizures.

When Rose Matamores was talking on the phone with her daughter Tuesday, she put Elijah on the line.

"She said, 'Tell Mommy what your name is,'" said Rose Matamores. "He said, 'My name is Irvy Smith.' I didn't even know he knew my son's last name because he's 3. He loves his uncle, so it's going to be hard for him not to root for him.

"But it's going to be a tough one for Ciera. It's the two loves of her life."

Sunday will mark the second time Smith has gone against Riley's team. In 2016, Smith was a freshman at Alabama and played sparingly in a 10-0 win at LSU, Riley's team.

"When I went to Atlanta, (Riley) was like, 'I'm going to get you back, I'm not taking another loss against you,'" Smith said. "So there was some trash talking."

Season kickoff

WHAT: Season opener, Atlanta at Minnesota

WHEN: Noon, Sunday

WHERE: U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis

TV: Fox

NOTEWORTHY: The Vikings are 4-0 all-time in season openers against the Falcons.

Hildenberger

From page B1

BALDELLI BACK IN BOSTON

Baldelli was a popular man on Tuesday in Boston, swarmed by TV cameras during his pregame media availability. Though he has returned to Fenway Park many times with the Rays as a coach, this is his first trip back as a manager.

Baldelli, who is from nearby Woonsocket, Rhode Island, played for the Red Sox in 2009. He has had many friends and family members at the series.

"I've always looked forward to coming back," he said.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY PREVIEWS

RUNNERS TO WATCH

• **Grace Johnson (Red Wing):** Now a senior, Johnson placed 10th in the Section 1AA meet last year to qualify for state, where she earned All-State honors by finishing 17th.

• **Hannah LaMaster (Mayo):** The sophomore was the Big Nine Conference runner-up. She looks to build on her sixth-place finish in Section 1AA last season, and her 26th-place finish at state.

• **Jacey Majerus (Lake City):** The HVL runner-up placed fifth in Section 1A and 12th at state, helping her team finish sixth.

• **Kailee Malone (Stewartville):** Malone finished fourth in the HVL and ninth in Section 1A, qualifying for state, where she finished 47th.

• **Lauryn Renier (Lourdes):** The Eagles' top runner finished third in the HVL, sixth in Section 1A and 21st in the state.

• **Madilyn Simon (P-E-M):** She finished fourth in the Three Rivers Conference, the top non-Cotter runner. Simon placed eighth in Section 1A and 39th at the Class A meet.

• **Natasha Sortland (Z-M/K-W):** The defending HVL champion finished third in Section 1A and eighth at the Class A state meet.

STORYLINES AND NOTES FOR 2019

• **Pings transferring leaves 1A wide open:** The state's top two runners in Class A, sisters Grace and Lauren Ping, transferred after last school year from Winona Cotter to Desert Vista High School in Phoenix. That leaves the Ramblers with two big spots to fill in their lineup, and it leaves the Section 1A title race wide open. Z-M/K-W's Natasha Sortland, who placed third in the section last year, is a favorite take the top spot. Cotter's Morgan Arnold and Lake City's Jacey Majerus are also among the favorites.

• **Who will challenge for state spots in 1A?:** With the Ping sisters transferring and Pacelli's Kayla Christopherson graduating, a handful of state-meet berths should be up for grabs in Section 1A. Among the runners who narrowly missed qualifying last year are Sarah Baum of Rochester Area Home School (missed by 2.4 seconds), Austin Pacelli's Rory Bickler (missed by three seconds), and Lake City's Mela Schmitz.

• **Byron making a move:** The Bears finished fourth in the HVL last year, led by state-meet qualifier Michaela Hamilton, now a freshman, and Abbie Halfman, a sophomore. Byron is moving up from Section 1A to 1AA this season.

ROCHESTER TEAM PREVIEWS

CENTURY PANTHERS

Co-head coaches: Joey Keillor (6th year at Century), Brent McGrew (1st year at Century)

Last season: Big Nine Conference champion (Kennedy Speer, 4th place); 6th in Section 1AA (Kaitlin Miller, 18th).

2019 outlook: The Panthers lost their top section meet finisher, Kaitlin Miller (18th place), to graduation, but have some talented runners back. That group is led by sophomore Kennedy Speer (4th in the Big Nine meet), who helped Century win the Big Nine meet last fall. She finished 31st at the section meet. Speer and senior Ava Nuttall provide the Panthers with a strong 1-2 punch at the top of their lineup. Senior captain Heather Wilaby is healthy and ready to run with Century's best, as are talented junior Gracie Shannon and eighth-grader Morgan Morey.

Coach Keillor says: "We were a lot tougher this summer in terms of demanding that girls run summer mileage, which is one of the top 2-3 variables that leads to success. Many girls realized that we won't be competitive against the best schools without it, and they bought into doing the unglamorous, day to day work required to be a great CC team. We look forward to leveraging our mileage dividend all season."

JOHN MARSHALL ROCKETS

Coach: Anne Gingery (1st season)

Last season: The Rockets placed 11th at the Big Nine Conference meet, and 12th at the Section 1AA meet

2019 outlook: Former Rockets' assistant coach Anne Gingery takes over as JM's head coach after long-time coach Pam Davick stepped down after last season. Two of the Rockets' top three runners from a year ago – all of whom often ran tightly in a pack – are back this year. Ally Halverson has graduated, but junior Greta Freed is back to lead the team, along with freshman Ava Fevold. Halverson was JM's top runner at the Big Nine meet, but Fevold was JM's top runner at the section meet, placing 35th. Halverson was close behind (41st) and Freed placed 44th. Senior Abigail Frei and freshman Taylor Adams are both also back after running in the section meet last fall. JM has good numbers this season, too, with 39 girls on the team, which means good competition in practice and for varsity and JV lineup spots.

LOURDES EAGLES

Head coach: Pete Gilman (2nd season)

Last season: 3rd in the Hiawatha Valley League meet; 4th in Section 1A meet

2019 outlook: The Eagles lost one key runner from last year's team that challenged for a state-meet berth, as Grace Baudhuin graduted. But Lourdes returns a talented lineup, led by senior captains and state-meet qualifiers Lauryn Renier and Meg Degen, as well as junior Marissa Houfek. Renier placed third at the HVL meet and sixth in Section 1A. She earned all-state honors by finishing 21st at state. Degen finished fifth in the HVL and 10th at the Section 1A meet last fall, then placed 52nd at state. Houfek had a strong postseason, too, finishing 15th in the conference meet and 28th in the section. Coach Gilman said eighth-grader Mariah Brooks is a strong newcomer who will likely be a key varsity runner.

Coach Gilman says: "The HVL and Section 1 will be very competitive again for the girls this season. The team has set reasonable goals. Lake City and Stewartville will once again be the teams to beat in the HVL Conference and Section 1."

MAYO SPARTANS

Coach: Brett Carroll (17th season)

Last season: 4th in the Big Nine Conference meet, 7th in Section 1AA meet

2019 outlook: The Spartans are loaded with returning talent this season, and they expect to challenge for top spots in the Big Nine and in Section 1AA. All seven runners who raced for Mayo in the Section 1AA meet last fall are back, led by sophomores Hannah LaMaster and Hadley Jensen. LaMaster was the runner-up at the Big Nine meet and qualified for state by placing sixth at the Section 1AA meet, just two-tenths of a second away from a top-five finish. Jensen also earned All-Big Nine honors by finishing 14th in the conference meet. Mayo's other returning runners from last year's varsity lineup at the section meet are senior Lara Pfrimmer, junior Arely Jaime-Luevano, and sophomores Elizabeth Wiederholt, Caitlyn Lake and Cecilia Kuzniewski.

Coach Carroll says: "Last year the team relied heavily on the top five runners. This year our team will be more tightly bunched up in the races and have more depth, so if one of the top five runners is struggling the sixth or seventh runner can help out. I could see this team contend for the Conference title and make the section meet interesting."

SCHAEFFER LIONS

Coach: Lindsay Johnson (1st season)

Last season: The Lions did not field a complete team last season.

2019 outlook: Schaeffer is a somewhat young team, but it has committed runners out this season who are looking to improve and build toward running their best times in October, when the postseason arrives. The Lions have one senior, Anna Lash, as well as one sophomore, Claire Ekbom. They also have a pair of young runners, eighth-grader Winona Morgan and seventh-grader Claire Allen, who round out the varsity roster under first-year head coach Lindsay Johnson.

Coach Johnson says: "Both our girls and boys teams are young and filled with great potential as they are learning how to race and train. The majority have already shown improvements since last year. Although our numbers are small, our goal is to have enough athletes to score for both the boys and the girls this year."

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PREVIEWS

RUNNERS TO WATCH

• **Korrigan Diercks (St. Charles):** The senior finished fourth in a tough Three Rivers Conference field, then placed eighth at the Section 1A meet to qualify for state.

• **Dakota Dowd (John Marshall):** The Rockets' senior had a great postseason, placing 14th in the Big Nine meet and 21st in Section 1AA, less than 25 seconds out of the final state-meet qualifying spot.

• **Samson Hagen (Plainview-Elgin-Millville):** The Bulldogs' senior was the Section 1A runner-up in 2018 and was the top finisher at the Class A state meet from Section 1, placing 35th.

• **Tanner Horton (Pine Island):** The junior and team captain placed sixth in Section 1A last fall to earn a trip to state for a second consecutive year.

• **Meti Omod (John Marshall):** The talented senior transferred to JM from Austin after last school year. He finished third in the Big Nine and third in the Section 1AA meet, then placed 36th at the Class AA state meet.

• **Luke O'Hare (Lewiston-Altura/Rushford-Peterson):** The defending Three Rivers Conference and Section 1A champion is just a junior. O'Hare finished 41st at state last season.

STORYLINES AND NOTES FOR 2019

• **Top 1A teams have shoes to fill:** Plainview-Elgin-Millville won the Section 1A championship comfortably last year, topping runner-up Lake City by 29 points. But both teams will have to replace some key runners this year. P-E-M lost two of its top three, and three of its top five runners to graduation, while Lake City lost its top runner (Hunter Grimm) and one more senior who was regularly in the varsity lineup (Zach Scharpen). Both teams have runners back to build around – senior Samson Hagen at P-E-M (section 1A runner-up) and sophomores Reese Anderson and Andrew Muenzhuber at Lake City. La Crescent could again challenge for a section title; the Lancers lost just one runner from last year's team that finished third in the section, as did fourth-place Lewiston-Altura/Rushford-Peterson.

• **Threinen looks for a hat trick:** Kasson-Mantorville/Triton senior Isaac Threinen is a two-time Hiawatha Valley League champion who qualified for state last season, placing 14th in Section 1AA. Threinen will shoot for his third conference title this year.

• **Top of 1A will have new look:** Of the 13 runners whose times qualified for the state meet as individuals from Section 1A last year, seven were seniors. That leaves some state berths open for runners who just missed last year, such as Lourdes' Kevin Turlington, Byron's Aric Jorgensen and Stewartville's Scott Boelman.

ROCHESTER TEAM PREVIEWS

CENTURY PANTHERS

Coach: Paul Callahan

Last season: 4th in Big Nine Conference meet; 8th in Section 1AA meet

2019 outlook: Century coach Paul Callahan has plenty to be excited about this season. Though the Panthers lost two talented senior leaders to graduation – Jackson Murray and Nathan Schatz – their returning runners were able to learn and compete with those upperclassmen in practice. As an example: Century's top four runners at the section meet last fall all finished within 13 places of one another and within 16.8 seconds of one another. A pair of juniors will likely be Century's go-to leaders and runners. Seth Hill finished 26th in the Big Nine and 33rd in the section last fall, less than five seconds behind Murray for the team's top time. Hill's classmate, Silas Green, was also in that top pack of Panthers runners in 2018. He placed 32nd in the conference and 42nd in the section. Senior Ben Larson is also back as a veteran leader who ran in the section meet last fall.

JOHN MARSHALL ROCKETS

Coach: Dan Feda (3rd season)

Last season: 9th at Big Nine Conference meet; 13th at Section 1AA meet

2019 outlook: Coach Feda,, the Rockets' assistant coach, has stepped in on an interim basis this season for Mike Sonnabend, who is on medical leave. JM will miss some talented runners who graduated a year ago, including Caleb Feda (Austin Invitational champion, 48th at Big Nine meet, 82nd at Section 1AA meet), Ammon Jones and Nicolas Leidig. But JM has a strong group of experienced runners back. Senior Dakota Dowd (14th in Big Nine, 21st in section) leads the way. He's joined by classmates Andrew Novak (50th Big Nine, 69th section), Jonathan Devlin (56th Big Nine, 64th section), Ogden Sikel (59th Big Nine, 87th section) and Stephen Akin (57th Big Nine, 90th section); and junior Peter Dahlen (7th place in Big Nine JV meet). The Rockets' lineup will get a big boost from senior Meti Omod, a transfer from Austin. He placed third in the Big Nine and third in Section 1AA before finishing 36th at the Class AA state meet.

Coach Feda says: "We have an experienced and senior-laden team that we expect to produce the strongest Rocket team since 2012. All the top returners have been running together for at least four years and are hungry for more success. Meti and Dakota are poised for a possible top-10 conference finishes. Andrew, Jonathan, Ogden, Stephen, and Peter have also all run under 18 minutes, giving us seven returners who have met that standard – the most in the past 15 years."

LOURDES EAGLES

Coach: Pete Gilman (2nd season)

Last season: 5th at Hiawatha Valley League meet; 8th at Section 1A meet

2019 outlook: Lourdes is led by three talented veterans this season, as it looks to make a jump up closer to the top of the HVL and Section 1A. Sophomore Kevin Turlington is the Eagles' top returning runner. He placed 11th in the HVL and 14th at the Section 1A meet, just one spot out of a state-meet berth. His section-meet time (17:39.2) was less than two seconds from qualifying for state. Junior Peyton Dunham (21st in the HVL, 45th in Section 1A) and senior Ethan Smith (31st in HVL, 52nd in Section 1A) are also back to anchor a solid and improving lineup. Seniors Ethan Smith, Nick Adamson and Marcus Cramer are also back after running in the section meet last fall. Sophomores Nathan Renier and Jack Archibald will challenge for varsity lineup spots, as well.

Coach Gilman says: "The boys are looking to move up in the conference and section meets. Early season workouts point to a successful season. Kasson, Lake City and Stewartville look to be the top competition in the HVL Conference. LaCrescent, Lake City and Stewartville are potential leaders in the section."

MAYO SPARTANS

Coach: Brett Carroll (17th season)

Last season: 12th in Big Nine Conference meet; 15th in Section 1AA

2019 outlook: The Spartans expect to take a step – if not two or more – forward this season. They have good numbers – 67 kids on the roster – and their entire varsity lineup returning from a year ago. Juniors William Roden (43rd in Section 1AA meet) and Lance Pfrimmer lead the way, with seniors Bryce Baker and Luke Kathmann, junior Matthew Todd and freshman Levi Hanson back from last season's section-meet lineup.

Coach Carroll says: "We will be much improved from last year. This group has matured a lot over the last year. I expect to see huge improvements throughout the season from the multisport athletes as they balanced running and their other sports over the summer."

SCHAEFFER LIONS

Coach: Lindsay Johnson (1st season)

Last season: 22nd in Section 1A meet

2019 outlook: The Lions lost three key runners and leaders from last season's team, as Jonas Tilburt, Joe Carter and Jesse O'Driscoll have graduated. But they return a trio of sophomore runners with section-meet experience. Leading the way is Aidan Kluth, who had the second-best time (20:43.4) for the Lions at the Section 1A meet. Classmates Jarrett Minot and Cole Morgan are also back after running the section meet last fall. Schaeffer will also have some senior leadership, as Isaiah Lahr has joined the cross country team for the first time.

Coach Johnson says: "Both our girls and boys teams are young and filled with great potential as they are learning how to race and train. The majority have already shown improvements since last year. Although our numbers are small, our goal is to have enough athletes to score for both the boys and the girls this year."

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Sports

H.S. FOOTBALL PREVIEWS

JOHN MARSHALL at KASSON-MANTORVILLE
7 p.m. Friday, at K-M Telecom Stadium
Records: JM 0-1 Big Southeast Red Division, 0-1 overall; Kasson-Mantorville 0-1 in the Big Southeast Blue Division, 0-1 overall.
Last week: John Marshall lost to powerful Mankato West 49-14, K-M lost 27-7 to Mankato East.
Last meeting: JM and Kasson-Mantorville have not met in the last 30 years.
John Marshall notes: The Rockets had a rugged first assignment, traveling to play perennial state power Mankato West. The Scarlets dominated the first half in building a 42-0 intermission lead. West hurt JM most with its passing, as it threw for 222 yards. JM had trouble running or passing and finished with 155 yards of offense. . .The Parker Navitsky-to-Will Woodford pass-catch combination was a bright one for JM. Woodford caught two TD passes from the junior, from 26 and 36 yards out. . .JM coach Kevin Kirkeby stressed the need to get better performances out of his offensive and defensive lines, which should be a Rockets strength. JM will be helped this week by the return of 6-feet-5, 280-pound offensive lineman Gabe Stangler, who's returning from a concussion.
Kasson-Mantorville notes: K-M looked stout defensively in the first half but finished the game having given up 317 yards of offense. K-M rushed for 147 yards in the first half, but managed just 63 after that. . .The game was tied at halftime (7-all). K-M's TD came on a 39-yards scamper by Jakob Aarsvold. . .K-M shot itself in the foot with fumbles. It lost the ball once by fumble in the first half, twice in the second. . .This is a new frontier for K-M, which is now a part of the Big Southeast Blue Division. The KoMets have a couple of strong players in returning all-district guys Easton Knoll (running back/defensive back) and Jack Jensen (offensive/defensive lineman).
JM coach Kevin Kirkeby: "Kasson-Mantorville runs the option really well. We have to know our keys on defense. If they get out in the open, they are likely faster than we are."
K-M coach Broc Threinen: "The biggest thing with us is we have to take care of our own problems (and not worry about the opponent). We just have to clean things up on our end."
— Pat Ruff

STEWARTVILLE at LOURDES
7 p.m., Friday, Rochester Regional Stadium
Records: Stewartville 0-0 Southeast District-Red, 1-0 overall; Lourdes 0-0 Southeast District-Red, 1-0 overall
Last week: Stewartville beat Triton 44-35, Lourdes beat Dover-Eyota 13-6.
Last meeting: Lourdes won at Stewartville, 40-14, on Oct. 12, 2018.
Stewartville notes: Stewartville has four new starters on the O-line, which helped pave the way for more than 400 yards rushing last week. ... With its win last week against Triton, Stewartville has won 14 consecutive season openers. ... The Tigers are led by a potent 1-2 punch on offense. Junior RB Josh Buri carried the ball 33 times for 362 yards and five touchdowns (four in the first half) in the win against Triton, while QB Will Tschetter threw for 119 yards and a TD.
Lourdes notes: Lourdes ran for 5.4 yards per carry (222 yards on 41 attempts) in a win against D-E last week. ... The Eagles' defense was solid against a strong D-E passing game last week, limiting it to 38 yards. ... Coach Mike Kesler said the Eagles will need to protect the ball better this week. They lost the turnover battle 3-0 against D-E.
Stewartville coach Garrett Mueller: "Lourdes consistently does everything right down to the smallest of details on offense, defense and special teams. Our rivalry over the past 9-10 years has been a lot of fun to be a part of. Our guys are hungry and excited to get back out on the field this week. We're looking forward to a great game this Friday between what we believe are two top teams in the area. I was very pleased with our overall performance last Friday vs. Triton. (Running back) Josh Buri had a standout game (362 yards, 5 TDs). Amazing performance on his part finding open space and making defenders miss. It was pretty special. We have to give a huge shout out to our offensive line for paving the way."
Lourdes coach Mike Kesler: "We have to really clean up some things, fundamentals-wise, like you always do after the first game of the year. We have to be fundamentally sound defensively. We know (Stewartville) will make some plays. Kids like (Buri) will get their yards, it's about how we respond and learn from those plays. We have to limit their offense; they're very dangerous. We want to keep the ball out their hands as best we can, and we hope to do that by moving the chains when we have it."
Up next: Stewartville hosts P-E-M on Sept. 13, Lourdes hosts Lake City.
— Jason Feldman

MAYO at NEW PRAGUE
7 p.m. Friday, New Prague High School
Records: Mayo 1-0 Big Southeast District, 1-0 overall; New Prague 1-0 overall, 0-0 Big Southeast District
Last week: Mayo beat Northfield 48-15; New Prague beat Byron 28-20 in OT.
Last meeting: Mayo beat New Prague 67-27 last year.
Mayo notes: Mayo has defeated New Prague in each of the past four seasons. The Spartans had two receivers top 100 yards last week, with Cayden Holcomb catching five passes for 127 yards and a touchdown, and Ethan Loehrer catching five balls for 105 yards and two scores. Running back Asa Cummings had 11 rushes for 128 yards and a TD, and Luis Gasca was just five yards short of the century mark with 6 carries for 95 yards and a score. The Spartans forced three turnovers while committing none. Mayo ran just 36 plays from scrimmage but averaged 14 yards per play against Northfield.
New Prague notes: The Trojans, who are in Section 2AAAAA, were 1-8 last year, with their lone win coming against Red Wing. The Trojans list 24 seniors on this year's roster, including quarterback Parker Johnson, who is 6-2, 200 pounds. He rushed for one touchdown and threw for another in last week's win at Byron.
Mayo head coach Donny Holcomb: "New Prague tends to do a bunch of different things on offense. They pull a lot, they have a lot of misdirection built in, and their quarterback is a good athlete. He throws a nice ball and is mobile, too. They've always given us trouble in the second half of a game, so we'll have to look out for that."
Up Next: Mayo plays at Albert Lea on Sept. 13.
— Eric Atherton

MANKATO WEST at CENTURY
7 p.m., Friday, Rochester Regional Stadium
Records: Century 0-0 Big Southeast District-Red, 0-1 overall; Mankato West 0-0 Southeast District-Blue, 1-0 overall
Last week: Century lost to two-time defending Class AAAAA state champion Owatonna 44-7. Mankato West beat John Marshall 49-14.
Last meeting: Mankato West beat Century 24-0 last season.
Mankato West notes: The Scarlets have won six straight in the series with Century's last win coming in 2006. West got off to a fast start in its opener, scoring on a 71-yard screen pass the game's first play. West had 363 yards of offense, 296 in the first half. Jack Foster passed for 222 yards and added 45 more yards on the ground. The Scarlets were also very good on defense, holding JM to 159 yards.
Century notes: The Panthers look to rebound from last week's setback but are playing another tough foe. Century's offense was held to 125 yards in the opener. Brock Shamblin was 10-for-25 passing for 77 yards, while Nathan Eberhart threw a 32-yard TD pass to Jack Fisher. Owatonna held the Panthers to just 11 yards rushing. Fisher led the Panthers in both rushing (one carry for 24 yards) and receiving (four catches for 57 yards). Century's defense allowed 459 yards against Owatonna, including 273 through the air.
Century coach Jon Vik: "We didn't play our best against an outstanding opponent last Friday. Owatonna is an excellent team and we needed to play our best to give us an opportunity. West is also an excellent team. They played well against JM last Thursday and showed they have some of the best skill players in the district. West has a veteran QB and some great wide receivers. Their coaching staff gives their players a great chance to succeed by isolating these skill payers in favorable positions. Last week they used that to create mismatches against a good JM defense. We will have to do better on the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball. Offensively, if we can create some holes for our running game and protect we can be successful moving the ball. We will have to guard against West's blitz packages as they gave JM some trouble. Defensively we will need to shut down West's running game to give us a chance. If we can make West one dimensional and pressure the QB, we may be able to limit West's potent offense."
Up next: Century plays at John Marshall on Sept. 13.
— Guy N. Limbeck

RCTC FOOTBALL

WHO: RCTC vs. Northland
WHEN: 1:30 p.m., Saturday at Rochester Regional Stadium.
RECORDS: RCTC is 1-1; Northland is 1-1.
LAST WEEK: RCTC evened its record by beating Dakota College-Bottineau 25-13; Northland suffered a 27-10 loss to Mesabi Range, which had beaten RCTC in Week 1.
LAST MEETING: Northland beat RCTC 34-6 during the 2018 regular season.
NORTHLAND NOTES: The two-time defending state champs scored 42 points in their season opener, but the offense is only averaging 212.5 yards (126.5 passing, 86.6 rushing) through two games. Zacharie Georges has passed for 253 yards with 2 TDs, but he has thrown 5 interceptions. He is also second on the team with 44 yards rushing. Enrique Agnew has 53 yars rushing and averages 3.8 yards a carry. Derrick Spencer has 6 receptions while Raphael Bell and Julian Durham have 4 each. The defense has allowed 339.0 yards a game (238.5 passing, 100.5 rushing). DB Keidre Taylor leads the team with 10 tackles and 2 interceptions.
RCTC NOTES: The Yellowjackets are averaging a whopping 49 passes a game so far. They average 387 yards on offense (270.0 passing, 111.0 rushing) while allowing 314.5 yards on defense (164.5 passing. 150.0. passing). RCTC has played 4 quarterbacks in each of the first two games, but Jacob Guidry might be emerging as the most consistent. He is 18-for-36 for 271 yards with 2 TDs and no interceptions. Dylan VanBoxel is 17-for-36 for 154 yards with 1 TD and 3 interceptions. RCTC has had 16 players with at least one reception. Cameron Green leads the with with 7 catches (11.9 averaged, 1 TD). Greg Hoard has 82 yards rushing on just 5 carries while QB Cody Hogan has 64 yards rushing on 7 attempts. LB Ken Bohnenkamp and DB Keshon Williams both have 13 tackles. LB Larry Lecount had a pick-6 last week.
UP NEXT: RCTC plays at Vermilion at 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 14.
— Guy N. Limbeck

H.S. VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS

BIG NINE CONFERENCE

	Conf.	All
Mankato East	1-0	1-0
Mankato West	1-0	1-1
Austin	0-0	2-0
Northfield	0-0	3-0
John Marshall	0-0	1-1
Mayo	0-0	1-1
Albert Lea	0-0	0-1
Faribault	0-0	0-2
Owatonna	0-0	0-2
Century	0-0	0-2
Winona	0-1	1-2
Red Wing	0-1	0-1

HIAWATHA VALLEY LEAGUE

	Conf.	All
Goodhue	0-0	2-0
Kasson-Mant.	0-0	2-0
Kenyon-Wan.	0-0	2-0
Lake City	0-0	3-0
Stewartville	0-0	3-0
Cannon Falls	0-0	2-1
Byron	0-0	1-1
Pine Island	0-0	0-4
Lourdes	0-0	0-1
Triton	0-0	0-0
Zumbrota-Maz.	0-0	0-2

THREE RIVERS CONFERENCE

	Conf.	All
Lewiston-Altura	1-0	2-0
Wabasha-Kell.	1-0	2-1
Chatfield	1-1	2-1
Caledonia	0-0	1-1
Fillmore Cent.	0-0	1-2
St. Charles	0-0	1-2
Dover-Eyota	0-0	0-0
La Crescent	0-0	0-0
P-E-M	0-0	0-1
Southland	0-0	0-1
Cotter	0-0	0-2
Rushford-Pete.	0-0	0-2

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
East Division

	Conf.	All
Mabel-Canton	3-0	3-0
Spring Grove	3-0	3-0
Houston	1-1	1-1
Kingsland	1-1	1-1
Lanesboro	1-2	1-2
Schaeffer	0-2	0-2

West Division

	Conf.	All
Randolph	2-1	4-1
Grand Meadow	2-1	2-1
LeRoy-Ostrander	1-2	1-2
Glenville-Emmons	0-2	0-2
Lyle/Pacelli	0-2	0-3

STATE RANKINGS

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
CLASS AAAAAA
1t. Eden Prairie (2) 1-0
1t. Lakeville North (2) 1-0
3. St. Michael-Albertville 1-0
4. Wayzata 1-0
5. Lakeville South 1-0
6. Prior Lake 1-0
7. Cretin-Derham Hall 1-0
8. Eastview 1-0
9t. Edina
1-0
9t..Champlin Park 1-0
Others receiving votes: Mounds View, White Bear Lake, Farmington, Shakopee.

CLASS AAAAA
1. Owatonna (6) 1-0
2. St. Thomas Academy 1-0
3. Elk River 1-0
4t. Alexandria 1-0
4t. Mankato West 1-0
6. Chaska 1-0
7. Bemidji 1-0
8. Robbinsdale Armstrong 1-0
9t. Irondale 1-0
9t. Hastings 1-0
Others receiving votes: Waconia, Chanhassen, Tartan, Cambridge-Isanti, Robbinsdale Cooper, Moorhead, Rochester Mayo, Spring Lake Park.

CLASS AAAA
1. SMB-Wolfpack (6) 1-0
2. Hutchinson (1) 1-0
3. Waseca (1) 1-0
4. Winona 1-0
5. Benilde-S.M. 1-0
6. Holy Angels 1-0
7. Delano 1-0
8. Becker 1-0
9. Detroit Lakes 1-0
10. Fridley 1-0
Others receiving votes: St. Anthony, Marshall, Mound-Westonka, Mankato East, Jordan, Hill-Murray, Albert Lea, Big Lake, Chisago Lakes, DeLaSalle, Rocori, Fergus Falls, Red Wing, Simley.

CLASS AAA
1. Lourdes (3) 1-0
2. Waseca (1) 1-0
3. Pierz (2) 1-0
4. Jackson Co. Central 1-0
5. Dilworth-G-F 1-0
6t. Dassel-Cokato 1-0
6t. Albany 1-0
8. Annandale 1-0
9. Cannon Falls 1-0
10. Perham 1-0
Others receiving votes: Minnewaska, Breck, Richfield, Mora, Pequot Lakes, Rockford, Stewartville, Luverne, Pine Island, Aitkin, Esko, East Grand Forks.

CLASS AA
1. Caledonia (5) 1-0
2. Minneapolis North 1-0
3. Paynesville Area 1-0
4t. Redwood Valley 1-0
4t. Barnesville 1-0
6. Chatfield 1-0
7. Moose Lake-W.R. 1-0
8. Pipestone 1-0
9. West Central 1-0
10t. Dover-Eyota 0-1
10t. Maple Lake 1-0
Others receiving votes: Blue Earth Area, St. Charles, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, Pillager, Crookston, Lewiston-Altura, Eden Valley-Watkins, LeSueur-Henderson.

CLASS A
1. BOLD (2) 1-0
2. Blooming Prairie (1) 1-0
3. Ottertail Central 1-0
4. Mahnomen-Waubun (2) 1-0
5. Minneota 1-0
6t. United South Central 1-0
6t. Springfield 1-0
6t. Comfrey 1-0
9. Mayer Lutheran 1-0
10. Deer River 1-0
Others receiving votes: Martin County West, Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop, Adrian-Ellsworth, Red Lake, Goodhue, Red Lake County, Underwood, Upsala-Swanville, New York Mills.

NINE-MAN
1. Grand Meadow (1) 1-0
2. Spring Grove (2) 1-0
3. Mountain Lake Area 1-0
4. Stephen-Argyle 1-0
5t. Cromwell 1-0
5t. Mt. Iron-Buhl 1-0
7. Verndale 1-0
8. NCE-U/H 1-0
9. Goodridge-G-G 0-1
10t. Hills-B.C. 1-0
10t. Lanesboro 1-0
Others receiving votes: LeRoy-Ostrander, Wheaton-Herman-Norcross, Cook County, Ely, Win-E-Mac, South Ridge, Badger-Greenbush-Middle River, Fertile-Beltrami.

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL
CLASS AAA
1. Eagan, 2. Lakeville South, 3. Wayzata, 4. Lakeville North, 5. East Ridge, 6. Champlin Park, 7. Northfield, 8. Moorhead, 9. St. Michael-Albertville, 10. Hopkins.
Receiving votes: Minnetonka, Shakopee, North St. Paul, Stillwater, New Prague, Prior Lake, Hutchinson, Robbinsdale Armstrong.
CLASS AA
1. Stewartville, 2. North Branch, 3. Marshall, 4. Concordia-Roseville, 5. Kasson-Mantorville, 6. Belle Plaine, 7. Southwest Christian, 8. Pequot Lakes, 9. Sauk Centre, 10. New London-Spicer.
Receiving votes: Watertown-Mayer, Lake City, Holy Angels, Albany, Glencoe-Silver Lake.
CLASS A
1. Kenyon-Wanamingo, 2. Minneota, 3. Mayer Lutheran, 4. Medford, 5. Waterville-E-M, 6. Mabel-Canton, 7. Caledonia, 8. Carlton, 9. Ada-Borup, 10. Henning.
Receiving votes: Barnesville, Canby, Adrian, Russell-Tyler-Ruthton, New Life Academy.

H.S. FOOTBALL STANDINGS

BIG SOUTHEAST DISTRICT
Blue Division

	Dist.	All	PF	PA
Austin	1-0	1-0	19	12
Mnkto East	1-0	1-0	27	7
Winona	1-0	1-0	33	7
Red Wing	0-0	0-1	7	55
Albert Lea	0-1	0-1	7	33
Faribault	0-1	0-1	12	19
Ksson-Mant.	0-1	0-1	7	27

Red Division

	Dist.	All	PF	PA
Mnkto West	1-0	1-0	49	14
Mayo	1-0	1-0	48	15
Owatonna	1-0	1-0	44	7
New Prague	0-0	1-0	28	20
Century	0-1	0-1	7	44
Jhn Marshall	0-1	0-1	14	49
Northfield	0-1	0-1	15	48

FRIDAY, SEPT. 6
Albert Lea at Red Wing
Faribault at Winona
John Marshall at Kasson-Mantorville
Mankato East at Austin
Mankato West at Century
Mayo at New Prague
Owatonna at Northfield

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT
Red Division

	Dist.	All	PF	PA
Cannon Falls	0-0	1-0	36	13
Lourdes	0-0	1-0	13	6
Stewartville	0-0	1-0	44	35
Byron	0-0	0-1	20	28
Lake City	0-0	0-1	21	49
Plainview-E-M	0-0	0-1	16	18

White Division

	Dist.	All	PF	PA
Caledonia	0-0	1-0	55	7
Chatfield	0-0	1-0	18	16
St. Charles	0-0	1-0	49	21
Dover-Eyota	0-0	0-1	6	13
Pine Island	0-0	0-0	0	0
Triton	0-0	0-1	35	44
Zumbrota-Maz.	0-0	0-1	13	36

FRIDAY, SEPT. 6
Caledonia at St. Charles
Dover-Eyota at Chatfield
P-E-M at Byron
Pine Island at Cannon Falls
Stewartville at Lourdes
Zumbrota-Mazeppa at Triton
Non-District —
Lake City at Wauzeka-Steuben (Wis.)

MID-SOUTHEAST DISTRICT
Blue Division

	Dist.	All	PF	PA
Hayfield	0-0	1-0	40	18
Lewiston-Alt.	0-0	1-0	27	20
Fillmore Cent.	0-0	0-1	7	41
Rushford-Pete.	0-0	0-1	0	46
Wabasha-Kell.	0-0	0-1	0	20
Winona Cotter	0-0	0-1	0	45

Red Division

	Dist.	All	PF	PA
Bloom. Prairie	0-0	1-0	46	0
Goodhue	0-0	1-0	20	0
Kenyon-Wan.	0-0	1-0	21	6
Medford	0-0	1-0	34	6
Randolph	0-0	1-0	26	6
Faribault BA	0-0	0-1	14	46

FRIDAY, SEPT. 6
Fillmore Central at Goodhue
Hayfield at Randolph
Kenyon-Wanamingo at Winona Cotter
Medford at Lewiston-Altura
Rushford-Peterson at Faribault B.A.
Wabasha-Kellogg at Blooming Prairie

DISTRICT 9-SOUTH
East Division

	Dist.	All	PF	PA
Gr. Meadow	1-0	1-0	47	22
Lanesboro	1-0	1-0	25	6
LeRoy-Ostr.	1-0	1-0	67	14
Southland	1-0	1-0	9	8
Spring Grove	0-0	1-0	30	28
Houston	0-1	0-1	8	9
Kingsland	0-1	0-1	22	47
Lyle/Pacelli	0-1	0-1	14	67
Mabel-Canton	0-1	0-1	6	25

FRIDAY, SEPT. 6
Grand Meadow at Lyle/Pacelli
Houston at Kingsland
LeRoy-Ostrander at Spring Grove
Mabel-Canton at Southland
Sleepy Eye St. Mary's at Lanesboro

H.S. FOOTBALL LEADERS

TEAM STATISTICS
Offense

Rush	Pass	Total
Mayo	251	252 503
Lourdes	222	27 249
John Marshall	67	88 155
Century	10	114 124

Defense

Rush	Pass	Total
Lourdes	172	38 210
Mayo	123	176 299
John Marshall	141	222 363
Century	186	273 459

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing

	Rushes	Yards	Avg.
Asa Cummings, Mayo	11	128	11.6
Nolan Jurgenson, Lrds	15	120	8.0
Luiz Gasca, Mayo	6	95	15.8
Destin Hinson, Lrds	20	91	4.6
Parker Navitsky, JM	11	36	3.2
Jack Fisher, Cent	1	24	24.0
Cole Peterson, JM	1	22	22.0
Cade Sheehan, Mayo	5	20	4.0
Cole Elbing, Cent	3	19	6.3
Will Kopischke, Lrds	3	11	3.7
Graham Hopkins, Lrds	2	10	5.0
Braden Black, JM	5	2	2.4
Demonte Simmons, Mayo	2	9	4.5
Dominic Rentz, JM	2	4	2.0

Passing

	Comp	Att	Int	TD	Yards
Cade Sheehan, Mayo	11	16	0	3	231
Parker Navitsky, JM	13	0	2	80	
Brock Shamblin, Cent	10	25	0	0	77
Nathan Eberhart, Cent	2	3	1	0	37
Nolan Jurgenson, Lrds	1	4	2	1	27
Cole Peterson, JM	1	4	0	0	8

Receiving

	Rec.	Yards	Avg.
Cayden Holcomb, Mayo	5	127	25.4
Ethan Loehrer, Mayo	5	105	21.0
Will Woodford, JM	2	62	31.0
Jack Fisher, Cent	4	57	14.3
Jaecan Fratzke, Cent	3	34	11.3
Jack Ward, JM 3	32	32	10.6
Colin Meade, Lrds	1	27	27.0
Mark Leonard, Cent	2	14	7.0
Javon An, JM 1	8	8.0	
Ayden Messmer, Mayo	1	7	7.0
Isaiah Huber, Cent	2	2	1.0

Scoring

	TD	2pt	FG	ExtPt	Pts
Ethan Loehrer, Mayo	2	0	0	0	12
Will Woodford, JM	2	0	0	0	12
Asa Cummings, Mayo	1	1	0	0	8
Jack Fisher, Cent	1	0	0	1	7
Luiz Gasca, Mayo	1	0	0	0	6
Mason Greseth, Mayo	1	0	0	0	6
Destin Hinson, Lrds	1	0	0	0	6
Cayden Holcomb, Mayo	1	0	0	0	6
Colin Meade, Lrds	1	0	0	0	6
Cade Sheehan, Mayo	1	0	0	0	6
Owen Ford, Mayo	0	0	0	4	4
Braden Black, JM	0	1	0	0	2
Julio Roman, Lrds	0	0	0	1	1

Jen's World
Wednesdays

Whether she's writing about life, love, laughter, or loss, Jen's World delivers a no-holds-barred look at everything from raising boys to raising the roof.

Jennifer Koski

Jennifer Koski

PB Post-Bulletin

Sports

Andrew Link / alink@postbulletin.com

Mayo's Kyle Doppler (11) and John Marshall's Vedad Budimlic battle for the ball during a Big Nine Conference boys soccer match Tuesday at John Marshall.

TUESDAY'S BEST

BEST MATCHUPS

- **Emma Schmitz** scored two second-half goals as the ninth-ranked Lourdes girls soccer team battled to a 2-2 tie against seventh-ranked Mankato West.
- **Luke Dallman** scored the winning goal in overtime as the Century boys soccer team went on the road and topped Winona 2-1.
- The John Marshall volleyball squad won the first two sets against Fillmore Central, then dropped the next two and trailed in the fifth set before rallying for a 16-14 win to claim the match. **Katilyn Steffes** had 25 kills for JM, while F-C got 15 kills from **Kandace Sikkink.**

BEST PERFORMANCES

BOYS SOCCER

- **Thomas Howard** had two goals and two assists as St. Charles blanked Winona Cotter 6-0.
- **Isaac Petersen** had two goals and **Mitch Dryden** had six saves for a shutout as La Crescent topped Dover-Eyota 2-0.

GIRLS SOCCER

- **Allyssa Williams** scored three goals as Winona Cotter blanked St. Charles 6-0 top improve to 3-0.

VOLLEYBALL

- **Sacia Vanderpool** had 15 kills as Byron swept past St. Charles 3-0.
- **Avery Irish** had 14 kills in Kasson-Mantorville's 2-0 win over Eastview.
- **Jaidyn Brower** had 25 assists, 17 digsand 4 ace serves as Stewartville defeated Bethlehem Academy 3-0
- **Peyton Berg** had 15 blocks in Chatfield's 3-0 win over Rushford-Peterson.
- **Kenidi McCabe** had 10 kills, 15 assists and 11 digs as Mabel-Canton blanked Kingsland 3-0.
- **Haliey Hindt** collected 13 kills as Grand Meadown topped Glenville-Emmons 3-0.
- **Sydney Taylor** had 15 kills and 5 blocks in Lanesboro's 3-0 loss to Spring Grove.

TUESDAY'S SCORES

VOLLEYBALL

John Marshall def. Fillmore Central 25-18, 28-26, 22-25, 19-25, 16-14
LeRoy-Ostrander def. Schaeffer Academy 25-11, 15-25, 25-18, 12-25, 15-13.
Grand Meadow def. Glenville-Emmons 25-6, 25-9, 25-12
Hayfield def. Pine Island 25-19, 25-12, 25-21
Spring Grove def. Lanesboro 25-16, 25-19, 25-18
Chatfield def. Rushford-Peterson 25-13, 25-18, 25-19
Byron def. St. Charles 25-23, 25-21, 25-12
Lake City def. Cotter 25-19, 25-20, 25-23
Austin def. Blooming Prairie 25-20, 25-20, 25-5
Mabel-Canton def. Kingsland 25-6, 25-10, 25-9
Stewartville def. Bethlehem Academy 25-18, 25-2-, 25-22
Kasson-Mantorville def. Eastview 25-23, 25-15, 28-26
Triton def. JWP 25-12, 25-16, 25-21

BOYS SOCCER

Big Nine Conference
Century 2, Winona 1 (OT)
Mayo 2, John Marshall 0
Three Rivers Conference
St. Charles 6, Winona Cotter 0
La Crescent 2, Dover-Eyota 0
Hiawatha Valley League
Lourdes 9, Kasson-Mantorville 0
PIZM 3, Stewartville 2 (OT)
Triton 1, Cannon Falls 1, tie

GIRLS SOCCER

Big Nine Conference
John Marshall 1, Mayo 1, tie
Century 4, Winona 1
Three Rivers Conference
Winona Cotter 6, St. Charles 0
P-E-M 2, Caledonia 1
Non-Conference
Lourdes 2, Mankato West 2

GIRLS TENNIS

Mayo 7, John Marshall 0.
Lourdes 6, Lake City 1
Winona Cotter 5, Holmen (Wis.) 2

AT POSTBULLETIN.COM

- All of Tuesday's southeastern Minnesota high school box scores
- More photos from Tuesday's Mayo at John Marshall boys soccer game
- All of tonight's southeastern Minnesota high school results will be online tonight, as they're reported
- A story from tonight's Twins at Red Sox Major League Baseball game

SPORTS BRIEFS

RCTC, RUTLEDGE EARN HONORS

The Rochester Community and Technical College volleyball team is ranked in the first NJCAA Division III national poll of the 2019 season.
And the Yellowjackets are an elite team in the entire country.
RCTC (8-0) has not lost a set this season. It is ranked No. 2 in the first poll of the year. It is one of five teams from the Minnesota College Athletics Conference to appear in the poll.
The Yellowjackets are off to a sizzling start, having won the MCAC Crossover Tournament and the College of DuPage Invitational.
RCTC sophomore Carrie Rutledge, a Hayfield native, has also been honored. Rutledge was named the NJCAA Division III Offensive Player of the Week on Wednesday. She is averaging 6.08 kills and 3.3 digs per set. She also has 14 service aces.
— POST BULLETIN STAFF

US HOCKEY HALL NAMES '19 CLASS

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, Tim Thomas, Brian Gionta, Neal Henderson and Krissy Wendell comprise the 2019 class of the United States Hockey Hall of Fame, USA Hockey announced on Wednesday.
The quintet will be honored at the 2019 U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame induction celebration on Dec. 12 in Washington.
Wendell helped Minnesota win back-to-back NCAA women's national championships (2004, 2005) and captured the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award in 2005 as the best female college hockey player. She also claimed a bronze medal at the 2006 Torino Olympics, where she served as captain for the United States.
Bettman, who was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto last year, became the NHL's first commissioner on Feb. 1, 1993. Thomas, a goaltender, became the second American and the oldest player to win the Conn Smythe Trophy as the most valuable player in the postseason in 2011 when he led the Boston Bruins to the Stanley Cup title.

ELLIOTT OFFICIALLY SIGNS EXTENSION

Running back Ezekiel Elliott and the Dallas Cowboys agreed to a six-year, $90 million contract that ends his five-week holdout and makes possible his presence in the starting lineup Sunday against the New York Giants.
ESPN reported Elliott is in line to receive $50 million in guarantees, trumping the $45 million Todd Gurley received from the Los Angeles Rams.
Elliott practiced Wednesday, not long after Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and his son and team vice president Stephen Jones rang the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange.
Elliott and his agent, Rocky Arceneaux, left his holdout headquarters in Cabo San Lucas on Monday with the expectation that a contract extension with the Cowboys would be finalized before the Week 1 home game against the team's NFC East rival.

BRONCOS RENAME STADIUM 'EMPOWER FIELD AT MILE HIGH'

The Denver Broncos officially renamed their stadium Empower Field at Mile High on Wednesday, ending a period of more than a year without a naming-rights sponsor.
The team announced the deal, which is subject to approval by the Metropolitan Football Stadium District and covers 21 years through 2039.
The venue had previously been called Broncos Stadium at Mile High since June of 2018, following the bankruptcy of former naming-rights sponsor Sports Authority.
— FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Tigers

From page **B1**

Dzubay made the trip by car, solo. But there were ample stops along the way, almost all of them catered to his thirst for disc golf. Dzubay googled top disc golf courses along the way, then proceeded to play 24 of them.

"I took a week to get out (to Washington), stopping whenever I felt like it," he said. "I was having so much fun. There was one course that advertised the need to 'watch out for rattlesnakes.' I didn't see any. But it was a great place. There were no fairways; I was just throwing against the side of a cliff, just outside of Billings (Mont.)."

Dzubay returned to Stewartville refreshed and with those volleyball lineups quickly re-emerging in his head. He couldn't help it, as there would be two returning all-state players to work with, second-teamer Prondzinski and first-teamer Erin Lamb (6-3 junior).

"Those are our best two hitters," Dzubay said. "But if teams double up on them, we can go to someone else."

Senior Lily Welch is an excellent option, with her smooth athleticism. So is junior Jolie Stecher, who's returned to form after blowing out her knee as a freshman.

And then there is junior setter Jaidyn Brower. Dzubay delights in her abilities.

"I think we have at least three potential all-state players, and Brower is one of them," Dzubay said. "She is beginning just her second year as a setter, but she already looks as if she's been doing it forever."

There is also plenty more to go with them, including standout sophomore right-side hitter Allie Elliot and a Stewartville second team which for one of the few times in Dzubay's tenure can challenge the first team.

But Dzubay knows talent, by itself, assures his team of nothing. He watched it stumble just enough Tuesday to be reminded of that.

So he did something about it, using it as a teaching moment. After 34 years of this, and with so much in front of him, there is no way that he's going to get out of the way.

"We have great players, but we have to be a great team," Dzubay said. "Everyone on this team is important, whether they are a starter or not. We're working on that. That is a key."

TV HIGHLIGHTS

TODAY

PRO BASEBALL
Noon (MLBN): San Francisco at St. Louis or Chicago White Sox at Cleveland
3 p.m. (MLBN): Los Angeles Angels at Oakland
6 p.m. (MLBN): Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee or Washington at Atlanta
6 p.m. (FSN): Minnesota at Boston
PRO FOOTBALL
7:15 p.m. (NBC): Green Bay at Chicago
PRO TENNIS
6 p.m. (ESPN): U.S. Open, women's semifinals
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
7 p.m. (ESPN2): Trinity Christian (Texas) at Parish Episcopal (Texas)
WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
7 p.m. (FS1): Marquette at Wisconsin
WOMEN'S PRO BASKETBALL
9 p.m. (CBS Sports Network): Seattle at Los Angeles

FRIDAY

PRO TENNIS
11 a.m. (ESPN2): U.S. Open men's doubles final
3 p.m. (ESPN): U.S. Open men's semifinals
PRO BASEBALL
6 p.m. (MLBN): N.Y. Yankees at Boston or Toronto at Tampa Bay
7 p.m. (FSN): Cleveland at Minnesota
MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER
6 p.m. (BTN): Washington at Michigan State
WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
8 p.m. (BTN): Baylor at Wisconsin
WOMEN'S PRO BASKETBALL
9 p.m. (FSN): Minnesota at Phoenix
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
9 p.m. (ESPNU): Bethel (Wash.) vs. Kennedy (Wash.)

LOCAL CALENDAR

TODAY

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY
Century, Lourdes at Tri-City United, 4 p.m.
BOYS CROSS COUNTY
Century at Tri-City United, 4 p.m.
GIRLS SWIMMING/DIVING
Century at Owatonna, 7 p.m.
John Marshall at Winona, 6 p.m.
Mayo at Red Wing, 7 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL
Albert Lea at Century
John Marshall at Faribault, 7 p.m.
Red Wing at Mayo, 7 p.m.
BOYS SOCCER
Owatonna at Century, 7 p.m.
John Marshall at Mankato East, 5 p.m.
Mankato West at Mayo, 7 p.m.
GIRLS SOCCER
Mankato East at John Marshall, 7 p.m.
Kasson-Mantorville at Lourdes, 7 p.m.
GIRLS TENNIS
Owatonna at John Marshall, 4:30 p.m.
Lourdes at Stewartville, 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL
Century at Mankato West, 7 p.m.
John Marshall at Kasson-Mantorville, 7 p.m.
Mayo at New Prague, 7 p.m.
Stewartville at Lourdes, 7 p.m.
COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
Des Moines Area CC at RCTC, 1 p.m.
College of DuPage at RCTC, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY

GIRLS SWIMMING/DIVING
Century, John Marshall, Mayo at Lakeville Invitational, 1 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL
John Marshall at Lakeville South Invitational, 8 a.m.
Mayo at Shakopee, 9 a.m.
Schaeffer Academy at Cotter Invitational, 8 a.m.
GIRLS SOCCER
Lourdes at La Crescent, noon
Mayo at New Prague, 1 p.m.
John Marshall at Farmington, 2 p.m.
BOYS SOCCER
New Prague at Mayo, 1 p.m.
Lourdes at Blake, 1 p.m.
GIRLS TENNIS
Mayo at Edina Invitational, 8:30 a.m.
Lourdes at Eau Claire Regis Invitational, 9 a.m.
COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
Madison Area Technical College at RCTC, 3 p.m.
North Iowa Area CC at RCTC, 5 p.m.
COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Northland CTC at RCTC, 1:30 p.m.

UP NEXT

TWINS BASEBALL	AT BOSTON TODAY, 6:10 P.M. (FSN)	CLEVELAND FRIDAY, 7:10 P.M. (FSN)
VIKINGS FOOTBALL	ATLANTA SUNDAY, NOON (FOX)	AT GREEN BAY SEPT. 15, NOON (FOX
LYNX BASKETBALL	AT PHOENIX FRIDAY, 9 P.M. (FSN PLUS)	LOS ANGELES SUNDAY, 3 P.M. (ESPN2)
UNITED SOCCER	C.F. PACHUCA SATURDAY, 7 P.M. (NO TV)	AT HOUSTON WEDNESDAY, 7:30 P.M. (FSN PLUS)
GOPHERS FOOTBALL	AT FRESNO ST. SATURDAY, 9:30 P.M. (CBSSN)	GEORGIA SOUTHERN SEPT. 14, 2:30 P.M. (BTN)

BASEBALL

PROFESSIONAL

American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
NY Yankees	91	49	.650	—
Tampa Bay	82	59	.582	9.5
Boston	74	64	.536	16.0
Toronto	55	85	.393	36.0
Baltimore	46	93	.331	44.5
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Minnesota	86	52	.623	—
Cleveland	80	59	.576	6.5
Chi. White Sox	61	77	.442	25.0
Kansas City	50	89	.360	36.5
Detroit	40	96	.294	45.0
West	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Houston	90	50	.643	—
Oakland	79	58	.577	9.5
Texas	68	72	.486	22.0
LA Angels	65	74	.468	24.5
Seattle	58	82	.414	32.0

National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	86	54	.614	—
Washington	78	60	.565	7.0
Philadelphia	72	65	.526	12.5
NY Mets	71	68	.511	14.5
Miami	49	88	.358	35.5
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
St. Louis	78	60	.565	—
Chi. Cubs	75	63	.543	3.0
Milwaukee	71	67	.514	7.0
Cincinnati	64	75	.460	14.5
Pittsburgh	60	78	.435	18.0
West	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
LA Dodgers	91	50	.645	—
Arizona	72	67	.518	18.0
San Francisco	66	72	.478	23.5
San Diego	64	74	.464	25.5
Colorado	59	81	.421	31.5

AL leaders

BATTING

Batter,	G	AB	R	HA	VG
LeMahieu, NYY	126	520	97	172	.331
Brantley, HOU	130	509	82	165	.324
Alberto, BAL	119	440	53	142	.323
Devers, BOS	135	553	114	177	.320
Martinez, BOS	127	502	89	158	.315
Bogaerts, BOS	134	529	102	164	.310
Cruz, MIN	102	384	66	119	.310
Gurriel, HOU	129	509	78	155	.305
Polanco, MIN	133	553	92	168	.304
Merrifield, KC	140	582	92	176	.302

HOME RUNS
Trout, LAA, 44; Soler, KC, 39; Kepler, MIN, 36; Cruz, MIN, 35; Martinez, BOS, 34; Sanchez, NYY, 34; Bregman, HOU, 33; Torres, NYY, 33; Santana, CLE, 32; 3 tied 31.
RUNS BATTED IN
Devers, BOS, 107; Abreu, CHW, 104; Bogaerts, BOS, 103; Trout, LAA, 102; Soler, KC, 100; Gurriel, HOU, 97; Bregman, HOU, 96; Martinez, BOS, 93; Cruz, MIN, 92; Rosario, MIN, 92.
PITCHING
German, NYY, 17-3; Verlander, HOU, 17-5; Rodriguez, BOS, 16-5; Cole, HOU, 15-5; Morton, TB, 14-6; Odorizzi, MIN, 14-6; Giolito, CHW, 14-8; Lynn, TEX, 14-9; Gonzales, SEA, 14-11; Fiers, OAK, 13-3.

NL leaders

BATTING

Batter,	G	AB	R	HA	VG
Rendon, WAS	124	473	105	160	.338
Reynolds, PIT	115	414	74	137	.331
Yelich, MIL	124	472	96	154	.326
Marte, ARI	131	524	91	170	.324
McNeil, NYM	115	438	71	142	.324
Blackmon, COL	120	510	100	163	.320
Newman, PIT	107	402	47	126	.313
Arenado, COL	137	522	93	163	.312
Bellinger, LAD	136	486	107	150	.309
Freeman, ATL	139	536	108	161	.300

HOME RUNS
Alonso, NYM, 45; Bellinger, LAD, 44; Yelich, MIL, 43; Suarez, CIN, 40; Freeman, ATL, 38; Arenado, COL, 37; Acuna Jr., ATL, 36; Bell, PIT, 35; Donaldson, ATL, 34; 3 tied 33.
RUNS BATTED IN
Freeman, ATL, 114; Rendon, WAS, 114; Bell, PIT, 110; Escobar, ARI, 110; Arenado, COL, 108; Alonso, NYM, 105; Bellinger, LAD, 103; Harper, PHI, 100; Soto, WAS, 98; Yelich, MIL, 93.
PITCHING
Strasburg, WAS, 16-5; Fried, ATL, 15-4; Castillo, CIN, 14-5; Hudson, STL, 14-6; Kershaw, LAD, 13-4; Buehler, LAD, 12-3; Nola, PHI, 12-4; Marquez, COL, 12-5; Ryu, LAD, 12-5; Ray, ARI, 12-7.

Tuesday's results

Minnesota 6, Boston 5

MIN	ab	r	h	bi	BOS	ab	r	h	bi
Kepler rf	4	1	0	0	Betts rf	4	0	0	0
Polanco ss	5	1	1	0	Devers 3b	5	1	1	3
Cruz dh	4	1	1	1	Bogarts ss	3	0	0	0
Arraez 2b	4	2	2	0	Martinz dh	4	0	0	0
Sano 3b	5	1	2	3	Bnntnd lf	4	1	2	1
Cave cf	4	0	1	2	Morland 1b	2	1	0	0
Cron 1b	3	0	0	0	Owings pr	0	0	0	0
Castro c	3	0	1	0	Vazquez c	4	1	1	0
Wade Jr lf	3	0	0	0	Holt 2b	4	0	1	1
Buxton cf	0	0	0	0	Hrnandz pr	0	0	0	0
					BrdlyJr cf	2	1	1	0
					Hrnandz ph	0	0	0	0
Totals	35	6	8	6	Totals	32	5	6	5

Minnesota 102 030 000 — 6
Boston 000 040 010 — 5

LOB—Boston 6, Minnesota 8. 2B—Arraez (14), Benintendi (39), Bradley Jr. (22). 3B—Cave (1). HR—Benintendi (13), Cruz (35), Devers (29), Sano (27).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Minnesota						
Dobnak	1	0	0	0	1	2
Thorpe W, 2-1	3 1-3	2	3	3	2	4
T.May	1 2-3	1	1	1	0	2
Duffey H, 10	2-3	1	0	0	0	2
S.Dyson H, 6	1	0	0	0	1	0
Ta.Rogers S, 23	1 1-3	2	1	1	0	2
Boston						
Porcello L, 12-11	4	8	6	6	2	5
J.Taylor	1-3	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	2-3	0	0	0	1	0
Walden	1	0	0	0	1	2
D.Hernandez	1	0	0	0	0	3
Cashner	1	0	0	0	0	0
Workman	1	0	0	0	0	3

Inherited runners-scored—S.Dyson 1-0, T.May 2-2, Johnson 1-0. HBP—Moreland (by Ta.Rogers), Kepler (by Porcello), C.Cron (by J.Taylor). WP—Thorpe (1), S.Dyson (1).
Umpires—Home, D.J. Reyburn; First, Ramon De Jesus; Second, Fieldin Culbreth; Third, CB Bucknor.
T—3:28. A—35,129 (37,402)

BASKETBALL

PROFESSIONAL

Women's National Basketball Association
At A Glance
Eastern Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	24	8	.750	—
Connecticut	22	9	.710	1.5
Chicago	19	13	.594	5
Indiana	11	21	.344	13
New York	9	23	.281	15
Atlanta	7	25	.219	17
Western Conference	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Las Vegas	20	12	.625	—
Los Angeles	20	12	.625	—
Seattle	17	15	.531	3
Minnesota	17	15	.531	3
Phoenix	15	17	.469	5
Dallas	10	21	.323	9.5

Tuesday's Games
Washington 93, New York 77
Seattle 82, Phoenix 70
Los Angeles 70, Atlanta 60
Wednesday's Games
Dallas at Connecticut, 6 p.m.
Thursday's Games
Las Vegas at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
Seattle at Los Angeles, 9 p.m.
Friday's Games
Dallas at Washington, 6 p.m.
Indiana at New York, 6 p.m.
Chicago at Connecticut, 6:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

FOOTBALL

PROFESSIONAL

NFL Week 1
TODAY
Green Bay at Chicago, 7:20 p.m.
SUNDAY
L.A. Rams at Carolina, noon
Washington at Philadelphia, noon
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets, noon
Atlanta at Minnesota, noon
Baltimore at Miam, noon
Kansas City at Jacksonville, noon
Tennessee at Cleveland, noon
Indianapolis at San Diego, 3:05 p.m.
Cincinnati at Seattle, 3:05 p.m.
San Francisco at Tampa Bay, 3:25 p.m.
Detroit at Arizona, 3:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at New England, 7:20 p.m.
MONDAY
Houston at New Orleans, 6:10 p.m.
Denver at Oakland, 9:20 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

WEDNESDAY

Baseball
American League
Baltimore Orioles - Outrighted RHP Tom Eshelman to Norfolk (IL).
Boston Red Sox - Recalled LHP Bobby Poyner, RHP Colten Brewer, RHP Trevor Kelley, and RHP Mike Shawaryn from Pawtucket (IL).
Chicago White Sox - Recalled RHP Jose Ruiz from Charlotte (IL).
New York Yankees - Sent LHP Jordan Montgomery on a rehab assignment to Trenton (EL).
Tampa Bay Rays - Outrighted RHP Aaron Slegers to Durham (IL).
National League
Atlanta Braves - Optioned RHP Bryse Wilson to Gwinnett (IL).
Chicago Cubs - Optioned C Taylor Davis to Iowa (PCL).
Cincinnati Reds - Placed 2B Kyle Farmer on the 10-day IL. Recalled 2B Jose Peraza from Louisville (IL).

Blooming

From page **B1**

But finally, let's talk about the doglegs. BPCC has three of them, all of them shortish par 4s, and all of them are borderline right angles. You could get away with a draw on two of them, but they are made for a fade.

Hands down, my favorite hole on the course is No. 3 — and a draw simply won't play. It measures 358 yards from the back tees, which literally are cut out of a cattail slough. The green is invisible from the tees, and so is most of the fairway.

The required shot will carry over 125 yards of slough (you'll be re-teeing if you top one), then fade into the fairway. I chose this moment to make my best contact of the day, which meant I hit it through the fairway. Fortunately, my fade kicked to the right when it landed, stopping short of the trees behind the landing area. I had a perfect look at the green from 145 yards out.

It's one of the prettiest holes I've seen all summer, but it isn't easy. A bunker guards the right front of the green, so this isn't a shot you want to come out of. Left is the correct miss, and that's where I hit my 6-iron. The chip from that spot is delicate, and I ran it five feet past the hole. My par putt lipped out.

No. 4 is another severe dogleg right, but this time you can at least see the fairway from the tee. I faded my drive a bit too much, but I got lucky. The ball stopped a few feet short of a pond, and while I had a slightly downhill lie, I had a clear look from 100 yards at a huge, elevated green that falls away steeply on three sides.

My 9-iron stopped 20 feet right of the hole. The putt had to go up and down two ridges, and I was happy to write down a two-putt par.

And so the round went. Every time I pulled out my driver, I visualized a fade, and that's what I hit. I felt like the course was laid out with me in mind, and given that most amateur golfers hit the ball from left to right, I'd say that Blooming Prairie Golf Club will be a good fit for almost anyone.

But my buddy Don would hate it.