

# SPORTS

## Similarities exists between this season and '97 flood

By Greg DeVillers  
Herald Staff Writer

Chris McDonald finished his high school tennis career with a flourish, placing third in the 1997 Minnesota Class A boys high school singles tournament.

That capped a spring of unknowns after the historic flood of the Red



McDonald

River spread water across Greater Grand Forks and disrupted life. The entire populace of Grand Forks

and East Grand Forks was evacuated. Homes, schools and businesses were unin-

dated with river water. "Mentally, the flood affected you," said McDonald, a 1997 East Grand Forks Senior High graduate and currently a dentist in East Grand Forks. "It was almost like you were in isolation."

"You couldn't go home then. Now we're stuck in our homes."

Like the flood of '97, the pandemic has shut down schools. Only in 1997 the flood affected cities and schools located only along the Red River. Now the pandemic impacts activities locally as well as across North Dakota, Minnesota and the entire country.

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Jesse Trelstad / Grand Forks Herald

Grand Forks Central's Alexis Roehl passes by Knights coach Sean Allan during a 2017 track meet in Grand Forks.



Nick Nelson / Grand Forks Herald  
UND captain Colton Poolman (6) and alternate captain Cole Smith (26) carry the Penrose Cup off the ice on Senior Night.

## From one college offer to NHL deal UND's Cole Smith developed into a top player during his four years in Grand Forks

By Brad E. Schlossman  
Grand Forks Herald

UND coach Brad Berry did not go to Steinbach, Man., to scout Cole Smith.

He and associate head coach Dane Jackson made the trip to watch a goaltender play in a Manitoba Junior Hockey League game. Smith just happened to be playing in that game, too.

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## FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS OF KRAFT FIELD



Eric Hylden / Grand Forks Herald

Grand Forks Red River baseball players practice social distancing in the parking lot of Kraft Field as the lights were turned on for 20 minutes Friday night. Lights at prep stadiums across the country have been turned on recently in support of athletes who have lost their seasons due to the pandemic.

## Familiar faces of FSN adjust to life without sports

By Dane Mizutani and Betsy Helfand  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Kevin Gorg cued up the final round of the 2008 Masters earlier this week, wholeheartedly reliving the moments as Trevor Immelman held off Tiger Woods to win the green jacket.

Audra Martin recently rediscovered her passion for the violin, practicing for hours inside her closet so she wouldn't disturb her neighbors.

Marney Gellner has become, in her words, the principal, guidance counselor, lunch lady and custodian to son Grady and daughter Finley with both kids now learning from home.

This is the new normal for the on-air talent at Fox Sports North, who are trying their best to fill their days while the COVID-19 crisis has forced them mostly out of work for the foreseeable future.

"Unfortunately for the first time in my adult life, I do qualify for unemployment," Gorg said. "It's not anywhere close to my normal salary. But I appreciate it greatly because anything helps right now."

But it goes beyond that for these busybodies, who are used to working the grind of an 82- or 162-game season, and are now just trying to fill those hours up.

"It has been sort of eerie without sports, and it's almost starting to feel normal, and I'm not sure if that's a good thing or if that's a concerning thing," Gellner said. "At first it was like, 'What am I supposed to do? How am I supposed to get the evening going? Where's my attention supposed to be?' Now I'm sort of in a routine of 'Oh, I'll either watch this replay or I'll watch Ozark or we'll watch Succession.'"

Her stint as an at-home principal keeps her occupied during the days, giving both her and her two kids some much-needed structure. She has found herself teaching math lessons, too, and Googling things she never thought

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MARNEY GELLNER, Fox Sports North reporter

she would have to know and again like, "What is an idiom?"

For Gellner, who travels with both the Timberwolves and Twins, she can't remember the last time she spent a month straight at home with her family, a silver lining to these dark times.

Most nights leave plenty of time for family activities, including watching the Netflix hit "Tiger King," which Gellner called "really fascinat-

rest of her time with scrapbooking and playing the violin as well as video chats with her family. She has two young nephews in the Chicago-area who she normally would drive home to visit if her schedule allowed for it, but with her nephews being so young, and her parents being a bit older, she decided it wasn't worth the risk of potentially exposing herself and her family to the virus.

"The fact that I can't even go home to hang out with them right now just kind of breaks my heart," Martin said. "We do Zoom and FaceTime to try to make up for it."

"(I) could not believe what I was watching," Martin said. "I cranked through that sucker in one day." She's been filling the

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Mikayla Weiss  
Central High School  
Grand Forks, North Dakota



April 2020

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