

GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

# Pratt and Weaver lead all-conference honorees for Ponies

BY STUART GROSKREUTZ  
THE GAZETTE

WHITE BEAR LAKE — Seniors Alexis Pratt and Ana Weaver continued their remarkable spring seasons while winning two events each for the Stillwater girls track and field team in the Suburban East Conference Meet on Thursday, June 3 at White Bear Lake High School.

Roseville, which placed first in eight of 18 events, compiled 193 points to outdistance runner-up Mounds View (170) and third-place Stillwater (157) for the conference championship. Forest Lake followed in fourth place with 101 points.

A total of 10 Stillwater athletes earned all-conference honors, which goes to individuals placing in the top four and relay teams finishing in the top three. Stillwater and Roseville were the only teams in the field to collect more than two first-place finishes.

Pratt won the 100- (12.30) and 200-meter (25.21) races. On the other end of the distance scale, Weaver swept the 1,600- (5:09.51) and 3,200-meter (10:24.09) events.

Senior Heather Wiehe added another victory for the Ponies after clearing 11-6 to prevail in the pole vault. Sophia Roskoski also earned All-SEC honors for the Ponies while placing third in the pole vault with a height of 10-6. Wiehe (15.78) and Roskoski (16.45) also placed third and fifth in the 100 hurdles.

Morgan Peterman recorded a runner-up finish for Stillwater in the 800 meters with a time of 2:17.96, followed by teammate Avery Braunshausen in fifth place at 2:21.81.

Stillwater's top showing in the relays came in the 4x200 where Mary Slowinski, Angela Taylor, Madison Truhlsen and Abigail Hansen placed second in a time of 1:47.84.

Taylor added a fourth-place effort in the long jump with a distance of 16-1 1/2. Abigail Kylo finished fourth in the discus with a distance of 105-11 and Hansen landed fourth in the high jump after clearing 4-8.

Stillwater was slated to host the Section 4AA Meet June 8 and June 10. The state meet for Class AA is scheduled for June 10 and June 12 at St. Michael-Albertville High School.

The 3,200-meter races for all classes and genders are slated for Thursday, June 10., but the rest of the Class AA events will be held on Saturday, June 12, with the boys meet scheduled to start at 10 a.m., and the girls to follow at 3:30 p.m.

This year's state meet will be timed finals only. No prelims will be conducted.

**Team standings**

1. Roseville 193; 2. Mounds View 170; 3. Stillwater 157; 4. Forest Lake 101; 5. White Bear Lake 93; 6. East Ridge 76; 7. Irondale

53; 8. Woodbury 43; 9. Park 12; 10. Cretin-Derham Hall 5.

**Individual results**

**100** — 1. Alexis Pratt (St) 12.30; 5. Angela Taylor (St) 13.17; 7. Eva Stafne (St) 13.29.

**200** — 1. Alexis Pratt (St) 25.21; 7. Abigail Hansen (St) 27.33.

**400** — 1. Julia Freed (Ros) 59.74; 7. Madison Truhlsen (St) 1:02.96.

**800** — 1. Ella Niznik (FL) 2:16.98; 2. Morgan Peterman (St) 2:17.96; 5. Avery Braunshausen (St) 2:21.81.

**1,600** — 1. Ana Weaver (St) 5:09.51; 14. Lucy Johnson (St) 5:43.26; 18. Abigail Rupnow (St) 5:52.14.

**3,200** — 1. Ana Weaver (St) 10:24.09; 12. Meredith Christensen (St) 12:22.41; 18. Abigail Rupnow (St) 13:15.06.

**100 hurdles** — 1. Ava Fitzgerald (Ros) 15.40; 3. Heather Wiehe (St) 15.78; 5. Sophia Roskoski (St) 16.45.

**300 hurdles** — 1. Ava Fitzgerald (Ros) 46.18.

**4x100 relay** — 1. Mounds View, 50.02; 4. Stillwater (Mary Slowinski, Eva Stafne, Heather Wiehe and Angela Taylor) 51.63.

**4x200 relay** — 1. Roseville, 1:46.81; 2. Stillwater (Mary Slowinski, Angela Taylor, Madison Truhlsen and Abigail Hansen) 1:47.84.

**4x400 relay** — 1. Roseville, 4:03.63; 6. Stillwater (Morgan Delaney, Anna Bushlack, Calli Dierkhising and Avery Braunshausen)

4:19.07.

**4x800 relay** — 1. White Bear Lake, 9:34.36; 8. Stillwater (Annabel Lantz, Casey Johnston, Megan Cuta and Brooke Elfert) 10:30.59.

**Long jump** — 1. Hemetii Apet (Ros) 17-7 3/4; 4. Angela Taylor (St) 16-1 1/2; 15. Madison Truhlsen (St) 14-11; 18. Mia Lucido (St) 14-9; 24. Eva Stafne (St) 14-1 1/2.

**Triple jump** — 1. Hemetii Apet (Ros) 35-5 1/2; 6. Sophia Roskoski (St) 34-8 1/2; 9. Nora Wilcek (St) 33-8 1/4; 14. Heather Wiehe (St) 31-9 1/2; 19. Johanna Swanson (St) 30-6 1/4.

**Shot put** — 1. Hadley Streit (MV) 38-6; 13. Kylie Galowitz (St) 30-9; 24. Karley Galowitz (St) 27-11; 24. Abigail Kylo (St) 27-11; 27. Lydia Kehner-Anderson (St) 27-10.

**Discus** — 1. Melaina Hayes (lr) 119-9; 4. Abigail Kylo (St) 105-11; 17. Kylie Galowitz (St) 86-2; 28. Marcella Wait (St) 68-3; 31. Lydia Kehner-Anderson (St) 64-3.

**High jump** — 1. Ava Fitzgerald (Ros) 4-10; 4. Abigail Hansen (St) 4-8; 5. Morgan Delaney (St) 4-8; 17. Sadie Bettendorf (St) 4-2.

**Pole vault** — 1. Heather Wiehe (St) 11-6; 3. Sophia Roskoski (St) 10-6; 15. Megan Palmer (St) 8-6; 22. Marcella Wait (St) 8-0; 23. Anya Williams (St) 7-0.

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## BASEBALL

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Stillwater added two more runs sixth after loading the bases, with a walk, a bunt that was misplayed for an error, and pinch hitter Tanner Voight was hit by a pitch. Brayden Helum lifted a sacrifice fly to score a run and Ritzer followed with an RBI single to provide a five-run cushion.

It was more than needed for Zurn, who was also a member of Stillwater's state tournament teams in 2018 and 2019.

"This is Zurn's third state tournament," Parker said. "I don't know if anybody else from Stillwater can claim that. I'm almost positive he's the first one who can claim that."

The Ponies lost to Woodbury in the section finals in 2016 and 2017 before defeating Roseville to qualify for state in 2018 and turning back Woodbury in the section finals in 2019.

"They took a little bit of the drama away from it, but it just showed how well they played," Parker said. "We struggled with the bats through the year and our pitching had to carry us, but our bats have picked up and guys are settling into their roles."

After the 2020 season was canceled due to COVID-19, there were a lot of new faces getting their first taste of varsity competition this season.

"We went with a lot of seniors this year and I think our guys were a little more ready after last summer," Parker said. "We found a way to get a lot of games in and our seniors gained a lot of experience last summer and having a lot of seniors gave us a big advantage because of the year missed. Our seniors had their sophomore sea-



Stillwater second baseman Gavin Madison fires a throw to first base to complete a double play during the Ponies' 7-3 victory over Woodbury in the winners bracket finals of the Section 4AAAA tournament on Saturday, June 5 at Stillwater Area High School. (Gazette staff photos by Stuart Groskreutz)

son and summer season last year, so they had less catch up and I think that was the big key."

He said the team's work ethic has made a difference.

"Our kids at the end of the year didn't want to taper their workouts," Parker said. "They asked us to have harder workouts at the end of the year and that hasn't generally been our coaching philosophy, but the players wanted to make sure they gave everything they could to this playoff run and they've played their best baseball

of the year at the end."

**C-D Hall** 0000000 — 0 2 2  
**Still** 102002x — 5 6 0

**WP:** Gavin Zurn 7-ip, 2-h, 0-r, 0-er, 0-bb, 8-so  
**LP:** Cooper Smith 6-ip, 6-h, 5-r, 1-er, 3-bb, 4-so

**Leading hitters:** C-DH, Cole Hannum 1x3 and Colin Scanlan 1x2 (2B); St, Alex Ritzer 2x3 (RBI), Kade Peloquin 2x3 (2B), Tony Ingram 1x3 and Casey Venske 1x3 (2RBI).

### Stillwater 7, Woodbury 3

At Oak Park Heights, it was a busy day that was made even more festive after the Ponies topped rival Woodbury 7-3 in the winners bracket finals of the Section 4AAAA tournament on Saturday, June 5 at Stillwater Area High School.

The loss dropped the second-seeded Royals (16-8) into the losers bracket where they lost to Cretin-Derham Hall 7-5 in an elimination game on Tuesday, June 8.

It was a fun way to start the day for the Ponies, who raced off to join classmates for their graduation ceremony in the afternoon and the celebration continued during the grad party later that night.

"It's a lot, it's always a lot for the seniors this time of the year," Ponies coach Mike Parker said. "We've had to leave games and change at CHS Field before so it's always a little worrisome to play a game on graduation day. We spent the previous days practicing at 8 a.m. to be ready and I thought our guys were into it and the home field advantage was a huge deal for us. Wood-

bury is a very excitable team and they have a ton of enthusiasm at home.

"It was a big day for us. It was really fun to win and have them go enjoy their graduation, the ceremony and the parade and the all-night party. It was a pretty good day for them. Beating Woodbury for these guys, it's a big deal because they know all the players and it's such a good rivalry right now."

Stillwater and Woodbury split their series in the regular season and the Ponies used a six-run fourth inning to take control in this one.

The Ponies struck first on an RBI double from Kade Peloquin in the third inning and started to pull away in the fourth.

"Getting that first run in, especially when you have (Gavin) Zurn and (Sam) Malik going, really gives you a lot more options to try and do things," Parker said. "Guys are more patient at the plate because of it and I think that ended up being some of the reason for drawing some walks and fighting off some pitches. We were able to bunt and when you have a lead it opens up a lot of options."

"Especially in that kind of game, having the lead is huge. Especially with all the one-run games we've had, even though he is such a good pitcher, it gives you some confidence."

Mason McCurdy and Casey Venske walked to start the fourth and Gavin Madison drove in both runs to provide a 3-0 lead.

Ian Hanlon followed with another walk before Alex Ritzer reached on an error that pushed another run across for a four-run cushion.

Madison finished with two of Stillwater's five hits in the game.

"He has struggled a little at the plate, but he's been so good defensively all year," Parker said. "We let him hit because we need his defense and for him to start hitting at the bottom of the lineup, he did a great job. He got two hits and Hanlon took two walks, that's what allowed us to come up with a lot more runs in the postseason."

Peloquin also drew a walk to load the bases and Zurn was hit by a pitch to push another run across. Ritzer then scored on a passed ball and Tony Ingram walked before Venske singled down the right-field line to increase the lead to 7-0.

As expected, Woodbury did not go quietly. The Royals scored three runs in the sixth before leaving the bases loaded and also loaded the bases again in the seventh.

"When we got those six, that was huge because we were able to shut Zurn down after 72 pitches when we were planning to use him the whole game and that helps set up the next game."

"I think that's the deal we've seen with Woodbury over and over, there's no safe lead. Every extra run ends up mattering. I think it's the best baseball rivalry in the state. Every time

we play there are multiple Division I players on the field and it's going to be good baseball and neither team is going to give up."

The Royals brought the potential tying run to the plate in the seventh. Zach Nelson was struggling with his control a bit and hit consecutive batters to load the bases and went 3-1 to the next batter before pulling off a bizarre conclusion to the game.

Nelson executed a successful pick-off throw that led to a rundown with third baseman Ian Hanlon tagging out the base runner for the final out of the game, setting off a wild celebration for the Ponies.

"That pick-off at the end of the game shows all the little things these guys have worked on all year," Parker said. "Zach is a super quiet kid, but he's got a great pick-off move to first and third. Zach's move is that good."

It was his fifth pick-off of the season.

"We had to basically try something," Parker said. "We didn't want to allow them to have more momentum."

**Wood** 0000030 — 3 6 3  
**Still** 001600x — 7 5 1

**WP:** Gavin Zurn 5 2/3-ip, 6-h, 3-r, 0-er, 1-bb, 5-so  
**LP:** Sam Malec 3 2/3-ip, 2-h, 7-r, 2-er, 6-bb, 5-so

**Leading hitters:** Wo, Chad Erickson 2x3 (RBI); St, Kade Peloquin 1x3 (2B, RBI), Zurn 1x3 (2B, RBI), Casey Venske 1x3 (RBI) and Gavin Madison 2x4 (2RBI).

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Third baseman Ian Hanlon celebrates with teammates after recording the final out Stillwater's 7-3 victory over Woodbury in the Section 4AAAA tournament on Saturday, June 5 at SAHS.