

# Sports



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## Forest Lake girls finish second, boys fifth at section golf meet

John Wagner  
Sports Editor

The Forest Lake girls golf team that finished second in the Class 3A Section 7 tournament held at Grand National in Hinckley last week is an interesting mix of old and new.

The "old" include a group of upperclassman led by senior Sami Boerboom along with juniors Ava McCarver and Greta Krieger.

But the "new" additions to the mix are young players who have had an immediate impact, including seventh grader Bella Leonhart and eighth grader Taylor Thompson.

That mix of old and new led Forest Lake to a second-place finish in the tournament with a 691 team score that trailed only St. Michael-Albertville.

"Our upperclassmen are incredible leaders," coach Andrea Brischke said. "They make our underclassmen feel comfortable. I've been fortunate that, while our players want to be competitive, they also are very supportive of their teammates."

The Rangers came very close to not advancing

out of Thursday's opening round; the key was an impressive 89 by sophomore Hailey Stanius.

"Hailey Stanius came into this and had her best two rounds of the year," Brischke said. "She was our third player on both days. And Sami was the most excited player to see Hailey's score on Thursday, because she wanted the team to advance, and that gave us a chance."

On Saturday the Rangers improved slightly, but it was not enough to catch the first-place Knights, who shot an impressive 324 and won by 35 shots. Forest Lake did defeat third-place Andover by 26 shots.

"I thought our girls were very focused, and they didn't let the heat get to them," Brischke said of Saturday's round. "If they had a bad shot, they kept grinding. St. Michael just played outstanding golf and got the job done; we didn't lose this as much as they won it."

While the Rangers will not advance to state as a team, Leonhart and Boerboom will advance as individuals. Leonhart finished

second, firing rounds of 80 and 76 for a two-round 156 total that was just two shots behind medalist Ellie Breuer of St. Michael-Albertville.

"I felt pretty good after the first nine [Saturday], because I had played better than I did on Thursday," Leonhart said. "I'm glad that everyone did better today."

Boerboom also advanced with a two-round score of 163 that placed her fifth. But her route to the state meet was a little more precipitous as she carded a pair of triple-bogeys on the front nine Saturday; she rebounded with a one-over 37 on the back nine for a round of 82.

"I took a few deep breaths, and I focused on my putting," she said. "And I said a little prayer here and there."

### Vue also qualifies for state

The finish to his round Saturday was not what Michael Vue hoped for.

"My start was amazing, but I finished with a double [bogey], par, bogey, bogey on my last four holes," Vue admitted. "I was tired because of the heat, but I did



Photo by John Wagner

The members of the Forest Lake girls golf team pose with the Class 3A Section 7 runner-up trophy they earned on Saturday, June 6. From left are Bella Leonhart, Sami Boerboom, Ava McCarver, Hailey Stanius, Greta Krieger and Taylor Thompson.

my best to grind it out."

But the finish to the day was everything the Forest Lake senior had dreamed about: Vue carded a 78 on the second day of the Class 3A Section 7 boys golf tournament to tie for fifth place - and earn his first berth to the state golf tournament.

As a team, the Rangers stood fourth after Thursday's round with a 313

score, but they posted a 320 on Saturday and fell to fifth, one shot in back of Andover and Elk River in a tie for third.

"I thought we played well as a team on Thursday," Forest Lake coach Matt Schugel said. "We may have thrown away a few shots here and there, but in general we played well."

"Saturday we struggled in the middle of the front

nine. I was proud of how our guys battled all day. It just shows you how every shot matters: Even though we were one shot out of third, we finished fifth."

Junior Ryan Eischen finished with a 154 that was just two shots behind Vue. Senior Charlie Leonhart shot a 166, followed by fellow seniors Tyler Brischke (168) and Max Goeken (169).

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# Sports



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## Strong showing by synchro at state

**Team places 3rd; Chatwin earns all-state honor**

John Wagner  
Sports Editor

To say that Forest Lake synchronized swim coach Laura Davison was pleased by her team's performance at the state meet would be an understatement.

The Rangers put together an impressive performance at the three-day event, which was hosted by Edina High School on May 27-29, finishing third with 80 points.

"At the beginning of the season, if you would have asked me where this team would finish in the state, I would have said third place would be a stretch," Davison admitted.

What's more, although Stillwater ran away from the rest of the field with 154 points, Forest Lake finished just four points behind Wayzata, which had won the previous 13 consecutive state titles.

"We only lost to Wayzata by four points - and

that's a very small amount," Davison said. "To almost beat the perennial state champs was really exciting. "And what made it even more exciting was that we came from the same section as Stillwater, which won the title. That means we had to battle with Stillwater just to send teams to state, and Wayzata did not. To have that challenge and still almost beat Wayzata was exciting."

Individually, freshman Grace Chatwin finished among the top 10 competitors at the meet to earn all-state honors.

Senior Ariel Ball placed sixth in the extended solo category with 63.967 points, while Chatwin teamed with senior Lizzy Hentges to place third in the extended duet category with a 68.607 score. Sophomore Cassidy Engst and freshman Bella Pope paired to place ninth in extended duet with a 60.908 score, while senior Johanna Livermore and junior Hannah Winnick were next at 60.305.

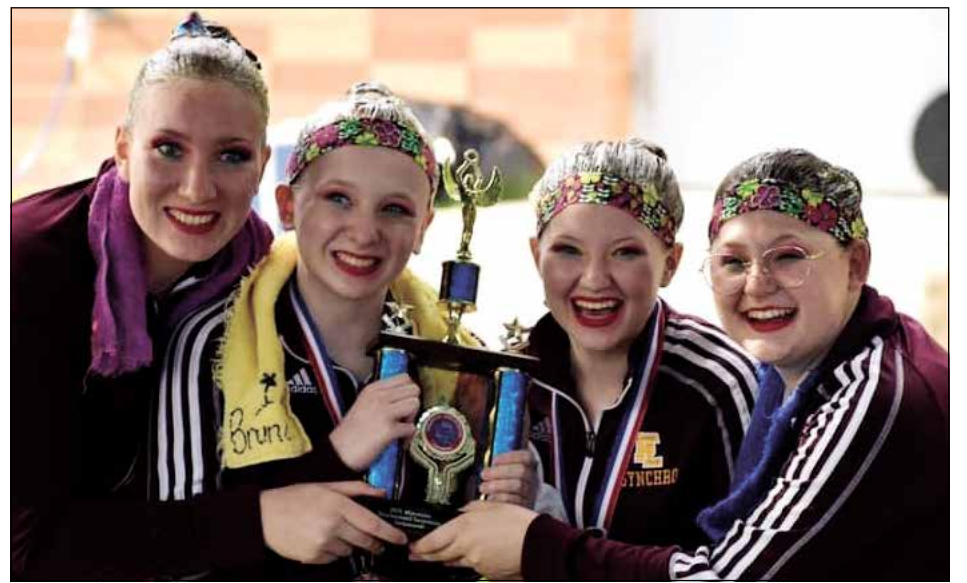
Ball, Chatwin and

Hentges placed third in extended trio with a 66.560 mark, while junior Jordyn Munkholm, sophomore Alicya Labelle and senior Maggie Thompson were sixth with a 62.898 score.

In the extended team category, the Rangers' Ball, Chatwin, Hentges, Hoekstra, Munkholm, Labelle and Thompson combined to place third with a score of 66.602, while the team of senior Hailee Dunaski, junior Lauren Eddy, Livermore, senior Kelly Sullivan and Winnick finished eighth with a 61.274 total.

In the long division, junior Alexis Hoekstra finished seventh in solo (61.882), while Eddy and Sullivan placed ninth in duet (61.785) and the trio of sophomore Delaney Chelgren, Engst and sophomore Emma Rogers-Wisnewski placed eighth in that event (60.991).

The long team of seventh grader Brynn Brady, Chelgren, Engst, sophomore Kaytlin Munkholm, Pope, Rogers-Wisnewski and sophomore Kalley Williamson took second



Submitted photo

The captains of the 2021 Forest Lake synchronized swim team hold the third-place trophy. From left are seniors Johanna Livermore, Lizzy Hentges, Maggie Thompson and Ariel Ball.

place with a 62.102 score.

In the short division, freshman soloists Alexis Ready (59.919) and Brady (59.788) finished fourth and fifth, as did the duets of eighth graders Destiny Schauer and Grace True (58.310) along with freshman Emaline Gunderson and sophomore Anika Jensen (56.885).

Forest Lake's short trio of seventh grader Hailey Johnson, Schauer and True took third (59.714),

while Brady, Ready and senior Hailee Dunaski took fourth (59.007).

Forest Lake's short team of seventh grader Elle-mae Fahning, Gunderson, Jensen, Johnson, Ready, Schauer, True and junior Katiana Zak placed second (59.768), while the team of eighth grader Elektra Brown, freshman Norah Decker, freshman Jaseana Drucker, sophomore Jessica Koenig, seventh grader Lauren Kroschel,

eighth grader Ally Poppert and eighth grader Kristina Stoyke finished 11th (52.412).

"We were just grateful to have this state meet," Davison said. "To be able to do this again after having a season where we didn't get to compete was amazing."

"Was it different? Sure, there were different protocols we had to follow. But having the chance to compete like this again outweighed the difficulties."

## Ranger softball faces section battle after loss to Andover

John Wagner  
Sports Editor

The Forest Lake softball team has its backs against the wall in the Class 4A Section 7 tournament.

The Rangers won their first two contests before losing to Andover on Saturday, June 5. That means Forest Lake had to win a consolation contest on Tuesday, June 8 - a game that was not completed at press time - just to

advance to the section championship game.

The Rangers opened tournament play by stomping Duluth East in a home contest on Wednesday, June 2. Forest Lake pounded out 14 hits and stole eight bases to crush the Greyhounds 13-1.

Senior Megan Wolff had three hits, including a pair of doubles; senior Katrina Yaeger had two singles and two stolen bases; and

Ruby LaMere had two hits, a single and a double, and also stole two bases. Sophomore Bethany Weiss had two hits, including a home run, and finished with three RBIs.

Forest Lake then knocked off Anoka 9-3 in a second-round contest played at Rice Creek Field on Saturday, June 5. The Rangers crushed 13 more hits, including six for extra bases - a home run by senior Logan Anderson and

two doubles by senior Hailey Pitzl led the way - and stole five more bases, with senior Shelby Ringwelski swiping a pair.

But in the winners bracket final against Andover, Forest Lake dropped a 4-3 decision despite 10 hits, including two by both Yaeger and Wolff. Freshman Hannah Tong was solid in the circle for the Rangers, allowing seven hits and two walks while piling up 10 strikeouts, but two

Ranger errors led to an unearned run that proved to be the difference in the contest.

If Forest Lake won its game against either Anoka or Blaine on Tuesday, June 8, the Rangers would play Andover on Thursday, June 10, at St. Francis, with first pitch set for 3:30 p.m. The Rangers, who are ranked No. 6 in the state in Class 4A, must beat Andover twice that day to earn a berth in the state tournament.



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# Sports

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## Ranger track performs well at SEC meet

John Wagner  
Sports Editor

Forest Lake track coach Andy Richardson was pleased by the efforts of both the boys and girls teams at the Suburban East Conference championships hosted by White Bear Lake on Thursday, June 3.

The boys placed third in the league while the girls took fourth while running against some of the better teams in the state.

The Ranger boys finished with 158 points, 24 more than the host school in fourth place. Mounds View won with 211 points.

"I thought the boys were awesome - things went just about as well as they could have," Richardson said. "In Tuesday's prelims we placed at least one person in every final, and in a few events we had two advance to the finals. And in all of those finals we had strong finishes."

One of the best performances was by senior Slade Heald, who has missed time this season because of a pulled leg muscle.

"It was a great time to get him back," Richardson said of Heald. "Knowing how much talent he has, and how dedicated he is to track, you had to feel for the kid. We talked about minimizing the number of jumps he took. He's a smart, self-aware kid who knew how to handle it."

Heald needed just one attempt to win the long jump at a distance of 22-1. Heald also won the high jump by clearing 6-4.

Junior Cole Brisbois also had an impressive performance, winning the 100 with a time of 11:31 while taking second in the 200 with a 22.66 clocking, less than a tenth of a second off the winning time.

"I know he wanted to win the 200 as well, but it was pretty impressive to be the conference champ in the 100 and finish second in the 200," Richardson said of Brisbois.

Junior Daniel VanAcker won the 3,200 with a time of 9:26.37 while taking third in the 1,600 with a 4:33.03 clocking.

The Rangers nearly had a 1-2 finish in the 300 hurdles, but senior Michael Sopp stumbled late as senior Drew Sampson won with a time of 40.69 while Sopp was sixth (42.94).

Another winner for the Rangers was senior Blake Johnson, who cleared 14-0 in the pole vault.

Junior Auggie Herman took third in the 400 (51.21), while sophomore Jacob Mayer placed eighth in the 800 (2:02.08).

Forest Lake placed second in the 4x100 relay as senior Riley Larson, Brisbois, sophomore Jake Deeb and senior Fru Awason posted a time of 43.21 that was one-thousandths of a second off first, while the 4x400 relay of sophomore Keagan Zeidler, Herman, freshman Reid Olson and Sampson used a 3:30.14 clocking to place second.

### Niznik sets meet record to win 800

Forest Lake finished with a 101 total on the girls side, eight points more than White Bear Lake in fifth.

"Our girls finished fourth as a team against some pretty good competition," Richardson said. "They did some things really well."

Junior Ella Niznik broke the meet record in the 800, winning with a sizzling 2:16.98 clocking.

"She ran really fast in the prelims, and she eased up at the end of that race," Richardson said. "You could tell she really wanted to go for it in the final."

Forest Lake also got a strong effort from junior Kylie Woods and senior Amelea Hauer in the 300 hurdles: Woods took second with a time of 48.26, while Hauer's time of 49.05 was good for fifth.

Wood also placed third in the high jump, clearing 4-8, while junior Annika Gunderson cleared 10-0 to finish fifth in the pole vault.

Meanwhile junior Victoria Ball took fifth in the discus (104-4) and eighth in the shot put (34-3), while senior Page Harer claimed eighth in the discus (98-2).

Eighth grader Norah



Submitted photo

Forest Lake senior Slade Heald won the long jump at the Suburban East Conference championship hosted by White Bear Lake on Thursday, June 3 with a leap of 22-1.

Hushagen placed fifth in the 1,600 (5:23.83) and was third in 3,200 (11:06.67), while sophomore Ellie Hanowski took seventh in the 1,600 (5:33.63).

Gunderson also finished sixth in the 100 (13.22), while junior Annabelle Stang took sixth in

the 400 (1:02.47).

The Rangers also took second in the two distance relays thanks to the quartet of Niznik, Hanowski, Hauer and Stang. In the 4x400 they posted a time of 4:06.14, while they ran a 9:49.64 in the 4x800.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

Compiled by John Wagner

### Boys tennis has success at sections

The Forest Lake boys tennis team saw its season end at the Class 2A Section 7 Individual Tournament hosted by Elk River.

The best finish for the Rangers was by the doubles team of juniors Evan Dzurik and Henry Kerkow. As the No. 3 seed, they defeated a doubles team from Cambridge-Isanti by scores of 6-0, 6-1, then advanced to the semifinals with a 6-1, 6-1 win over a pair from Coon Rapids.

In the semifinals, Dzurik and Kerkow lost to a doubles team from Duluth East by scores of 6-3, 6-2.

"I personally think this is a great accomplishment, considering this is the first year Evan has ever played competitive tennis," Forest Lake coach Ron Ingalls said.

The doubles team

of junior Joey Leagjeld and sophomore Carson Bowes lost its first-round match to a doubles team from Coon Rapids.

In singles, freshman Frank Kerkow won his opening match against Andover's Andrew McIntyre by scores of 6-4, 6-2 before losing in straight sets to eventual runner-up Sam Murillo of Coon Rapids.

Eighth grader Malachi McKinnon won his opening match against Andover's Eli Henderson by scores of 6-0, 6-2 before losing to eventual champ Cullen Brown of Elk River in straight sets.

### Boys lacrosse loses opener

The Forest Lake boys lacrosse team suffered a 10-7 loss at Andover in the opening round of the Section 7 tournament on Tuesday, June 1.

The loss gives the Rangers a 2-13 record for the season.

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