

BASEBALL

Ponies capture another section title

Wallace shuts down Raptors to send Stillwater to its fourth straight state tournament

BY STUART GROSKREUTZ
THE GAZETTE

ROSEVILLE — A largely new batch of players advanced to familiar territory as Stillwater blanked East Ridge 4-0 to win the Section 4AAAA baseball championship on Tuesday, June 7 at the University of Northwestern in Roseville.

It marks the fourth consecutive section championship for Stillwater, but there were no guarantees after losing five all-conference performers among last year's large class of seniors — including the top two pitchers and seven starting position players. But the top-seeded Ponies (20-4) cruised through the section while outscoring its four opponents by a combined 41-5.

"This is a brand new team," Stillwater coach Mike Parker said. "I think it really says something about our lower level teams. This group of seniors, we only had a couple with any experience but their JV season they were 19-1 and just kind of expected to win. They played their JV season like it was a varsity season and I think it prepared them for this year. That's one of the reasons we are able to compete each year is the freshman, sophomore and JV teams taking things pretty seriously."

One of the few returning contributors from a year ago, Josh Wallace was in control on the mound throughout. The senior allowed just two hits and did not walk a batter while striking out five against a team that has not been

held to less than two runs in a game all season.

"Obviously Josh had a great outing," Parker said. "They are a really high scoring team and I think the key was that he battled through some tough at bats that they gave him and he didn't walk a guy. To give up two hits and not walk anybody is a pretty special performance when you look at the team they had. He only had five strikeouts, but what he did have was a lot of

weak contact and our defense was strong so they were able to make plays on the fly balls and the choppers to the infield."

Stillwater finished with eight hits, but found different ways to score against the Raptors.

The Ponies used two walks on a single by Mason Buck to load the bases in the third inning. Austin Buck was hit by a pitch to push the game's first run across, but East Ridge followed with a double play to avoid additional damage.

Wallace singled in the fourth and scored on a triple to center by Tanner Voight, who then raced home to beat the throw on a bunt by Jacob Flom to provide a 3-0 lead.

"Voight had that huge hit and his base running play to score," Parker said. "To get a triple out of that, for a big guy he can really move and he made a great base running play to score on that bunt. That was his own read and that wasn't called, Flom just bunted on his own. That was a huge point in the game getting that run."

Mason Buck started the fifth with the second of



M. Buck



Voight



Senior Austin Buck lays down a sacrifice bunt in the fifth inning of Stillwater's 4-0 victory over East Ridge in the Section 4AAAA championship game on Tuesday, June 7 at the University of Northwestern in Roseville. Below, teammates swarm Tanner Voight after he tripled and scored on a bunt by Jacob Flom in the fourth inning. (Gazette staff photos by Stuart Groskreutz)

his three hits and eventually scored on an error on a grounder by Jacob Carlson to provide a four-run cushion.

"One thing we continue to do is put the ball in play and have competitive at bats," Parker said. "We forced some errors on them because of how hard we run. We force teams to play faster than they want to."

That was more than enough support for Wallace, who sealed the victory by striking out East Ridge's No. 3, 4 and 5 hitters to retire the side in the seventh.

"He only had two strikeouts to that point," Parker said.

It was dominating performance, especially considering Wallace has been limited by a hamstring in-

jury throughout the latter half of the season.

"He showed a lot of toughness in that game," Parker said. "He told me he didn't want any relief and he wanted to go tackle that and he did it to the heart of their lineup."

It was an emotional victory for the players and Parker, who has enjoyed every minute of the season with this team.

"It's the work ethic and the focus every day in practice and it's the enthusiasm and energy they bring to every game," Parker said. "It's the hardest working team I've ever coached. They do things the right way and it truly is 20 guys in that dugout completely 100 percent into the game. It's truly a family with these guys."



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GIRLS LACROSSE

Ponies return to state after one-year absence

BY STUART GROSKREUTZ
THE GAZETTE

OAK PARK HEIGHTS — There was no dwelling on the past for the Stillwater girls lacrosse team, which stopped Hill-Murray 16-5 in the finals of the Section 4 Tournament on Wednesday, June 8 at Stillwater Area High School.

Hill-Murray upset the top-seeded Ponies in the finals a year ago to end a run of nine consecutive trips to the state tournament for Stillwater. The Ponies were in control from the start, jumping out to a 9-3 halftime lead against the second-seeded Pioneers (8-8).

“No, they actually didn’t,” Ponies coach Ali Schmitz said when asked if last year’s painful loss was discussed prior to this year’s showdown. “The captains decided that we weren’t going to talk about last year and we’re gonna just play in the moment and focus on today.”

This time it was the Ponies celebrating their 10th section title in 11 seasons.

“I don’t think they want to feel the way that they felt last year as the runner-up in Section 4 and having the season end like it did last year,” Schmitz said. “I think that was an underlying motivator for them.”

Tori Liljegren set the scoring pace for Stillwater with five goals. Avery Lorinser scored four times and Maycie Neubauer chipped in with three tallies. Ellie Fischer, Lydia Glass and Grace Bancroft also supplied a goal each, along with junior Jessie Migglar — who notched her first-ever varsity goal in the second half.

The versatile Liljegren does not always focus on scoring goals, but she was assertive on the attack against the Pioneers.

“She will help any player play their best on any given day, but when we need her to take care of the business for us she knows exactly how to do it,” Schmitz said. “She’s probably the most well-rounded player we have on the team from causing turnovers in defense from feeding and assisting and putting the points on the board in an unselfish manner.”

The Ponies were focused

on stopping Olivia Godbout and Cate Kangas, but Godbout suffered an injury in the semifinals and was not in uniform for the finals.

“Our primary concerns were number 14 and 15 on their side putting points up and really being the play-makers and the game changers,” Schmitz said. “We knew there could have been an injury and today she was unable to play so that was a major loss for them on the field, but we had a game plan in place to try and prevent them from getting the ball and doing what they wanted with it. We started the game with really tight D on (Kangas) and executed that really nicely.”

After winning nine straight games during the regular season, the Ponies ended with three straight losses against strong competition in Rosemount, Forest Lake and Edina. Stillwater answered with three convincing victories in sections, outscoring their opponents by a combined 47-11.

“I would say dropping to Forest Lake was a huge disappointment, but a really good gut check for our team,” Schmitz said. “You can never underestimate anybody and they outplayed us on Senior Night so that was a tough loss for the seniors, but we took away major learning lessons.”

“Finishing the regular season against Edina was a part of the plan all along. I wanted us to see one of the best teams in the state before going into sections and we played a great game against them and hung in there, which helped us prepare for our section tournament even with loss.”

Stillwater was more efficient on the scoring end against Hill-Murray than during some of the games it has struggled this season.

“We had a bit of a lull towards the end of regular season putting points on the board, so within the last week preparing for this game we worked on shots every single day because that’s what the girls needed,” Schmitz said. “More precise and aggressive shooting is really what it was. We had



Junior Anna Benson is shadowed by a Hill-Murray defender during the second half of Stillwater’s 16-5 victory in the Section 4 finals on Wednesday, June 8 at Stillwater Area High School. Below, junior Jessica Migglar reacts after scoring her first-ever varsity goal in the second half. (Gazette staff photos by Stuart Groskreutz)

a problem putting points on the board towards the end of the regular season, which led to those losses. So seeing better goalies and seeing better defense made us elevate our game, especially on the attacking side of the ball, so moving it quicker and looking at different angles to shoot.”

The Ponies will meet an opponent to be determined in the state quarterfinals on Tuesday, June 14 at Roseville High School. Stillwater is the other host site for this year’s boys and girls state tournament games.

Hill-Murray	3	2	—	5
Stillwater	9	7	—	16

Goals — St, Tori Liljegren 5, Avery Lorinser 4, Maycie Neubauer 3, Ellie Fisher, Jessie Migglar, Lydia Glass and Grace Bancroft.

Assists — St, Anna Benson, Liljegren, Grace Mattox and Bancroft.

Saves — St, Hannah Beard 5.

Stillwater 13, WB Lake 5

At Oak Park Heights, Grace Bancroft struck for five goals and Maycie Neubauer added three to help propel the Ponies to



a 13-6 victory over White Bear Lake (7-8) in the Section 4 semifinals on Monday, June 6 at SAHS.

Tori Liljegren added two goals for the Ponies, who received two assists each from Ellie Fisher and Lydia Glass.

Hannah Beard turned away nine shots in goal for Stillwater, which outscored the Bears 7-3 in the second half.

White Bear Lake	2	3	—	5
Stillwater	6	7	—	13

Goals — St, Grace Bancroft 5,

Maycie Neubauer 3, Tori Liljegren 2, Meghan Nelson, Myah Krueger and Ellie Fisher.

Assists — St, Fisher 2, Lydia Glass 2 and Neubauer.

Saves — St, Hannah Beard 9.

Stillwater 18, T-G 1

At Oak Park Heights, the Ponies cruised to a 13-0 halftime lead and eliminated Totino-Grace 18-1 on Friday, June 3 at SAHS.

Grace Bancroft found the back of the net four times and also tallied three assists to lead the Ponies. Avery Lorinser chipped in with three goals while Ava Mosely, Sydney Johnson, Lydia Glass and Tori Liljegren added two goals apiece.

Totino-Grace finishes the season with a 6-9 record.

Totino-Grace	0	1	—	1
Stillwater	13	5	—	18

Goals — St, Grace Bancroft 4, Avery Lorinser 3, Ava Mosely 2, Sydney Johnson 2, Lydia Glass 2, Tori Liljegren 2, Maycie Neubauer, Ellie Fisher and Grace Mattox.

Assists — St, Bancroft 3, Fisher, Lorinser, Jessie Migglar, Allison Carle, Meghan Nelson, Johnson and Cassidy Keykal.

Saves — St, Hannah Beard 4.

BOYS LACROSSE

Stillwater tops Zephyrs to earn repeat trip to state

Ponies notch the school's eighth spring section title

BY STUART GROSKREUTZ
THE GAZETTE

OAK PARK HEIGHTS — It has been a remarkable season for Stillwater sports so far this spring and the boys lacrosse team added to that total with its second straight Section 4 championship on Wednesday, June 8 at Stillwater Area High School.

The second-seeded Ponies (13-3) jumped out to a 5-0 lead and cruised to an 8-3 victory over Mahtomedi (11-5), the same team they defeated while claiming the program's first-ever section title a year ago.

Stillwater's 10 sports teams have racked up eight section championships this spring. Ponies coach Peter Flock said his team was eager to add to the total, but didn't feel any additional pressure after watching the Stillwater girls add to the section title in the earlier game on Wednesday.

"There's definitely pressure, especially when you have a huge senior class and you want to make sure that you're doing everything possible to give them the best chance to further their time with Stillwater athletics, so I think more of the pressure is my feeling towards the seniors and keeping them going more than anything else.

"I'm proud of my guys. I've been with this group for a really long time, so I'm glad we're spending a little more time together."

The Ponies remained in control throughout, building a five-goal cushion until Mahtomedi finally broke through in the third quarter.

Tommy Lindeberg finished with three goals to lead the bal-



Members of the Stillwater boys lacrosse team hoist senior captain Owen Grau with the trophy after the Ponies defended their Section 4 championship with an 8-3 victory over Mahtomedi on Wednesday, June 8 at Stillwater Area High School. (Gazette staff photo by Stuart Groskreutz)

anced Ponies, who also received a goal each from Tomas Anderson, Aidan Anderson, Carter Bies, Brock Lynskey and Sammy Ness. Ben Shockency provided a team-high two assists.

"What we saw on film and scouting was they had kind of a blue-collar team," Flock said. "They ride super hard on our clear from going from our defense to offense and we cleared the ball extremely well today. We got the ball downfield and we won the ground ball battle. We definitely out blue-collared them I believe. That's how they win games and we just had to match it."

"It just was a full-field game today. Even though it wasn't a high-scoring game, it felt like we

were in control the whole time. It never really felt like it was getting out of hand. Our defense was absolutely phenomenal and we were clearing the ball well. Offensively, I think we could have had a couple more, but their goalie played extremely strong."

After losing two one-goal games in conference play and suffering another loss to highly regarded Prior Lake in the regular season finale, Stillwater outscored its opponents by a combined 36-13 in three section victories.

Vincent Burkhart finished with five saves for the Ponies.

"Our losses are tough games," Flock said. "There was probably one or two specific things that we knew that we were struggling

with that kind of forced those losses. And so we went after those areas hard and so it's kind of coming full circle. It's good that we had those so we can take a good look at them. We fixed them for the most part."

The biggest thing was limiting turnovers, the coach suggested.

"One of them is just value the ball," Flock said. "We were kind of forcing into areas that we didn't need to. Possession time is huge and we were kind of turning the ball over without a long possession or really much of a possession at all. So the biggest one was possession time and turnovers and then just a little more activity off the ball."

Stillwater also won 9 of 14 face-offs, a nearly two-to-one

advantage.

"Corbin (Van Duyne), our main face-off guy makes coaching a lot easier when you have a guy that wins that many face-offs," Flock said. "He stepped up today. He's kind of been nursing some stuff, but he's backed 100 percent and we're excited to see what he does in the state tournament."

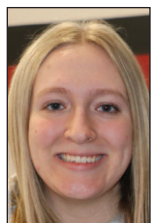
State pairings have not been announced, but SAHS is the quarterfinal site for the boys state tournament.

"We're gonna make some noise," Flock said. "This group is excited and ready and we know that we can play with the best in this state and I think

See Lacrosse, Page 17

Kylie Galowitz Girls track and field

One of four captains for the Stillwater girls track and field team, Kylie Galowitz has been a reliable performer in the throws and an invaluable leader for the Ponies all season.



The senior finished second in the shot put (32-4 1/2) and third in the discus (111-3) to help lead Stillwater to a victory in the Section 4AAA Meet on June 2 at Stillwater Area High School. Galowitz

is part of a big contingent of Ponies scheduled to compete at this week's state meet at St. Michael-Albertville. Stillwater earned a total of 14 state entries, including two relays.



SAHS Athletes of the Week

Josh Wallace Baseball

Not wanting to play a second championship game, senior Josh Wallace took control on the mound for the Stillwater baseball team in a 4-0 triumph over East Ridge in the Section 4AAAA finals on June 7.

The right-hander limited the Raptors to just two hits and did not walk a batter in the complete game against a team that had not been shut out all season. He also delivered a hit at the plate, helping the Ponies advanced to state for the fourth straight season. Stillwater will play in the state quarterfinals at CHS Field in St. Paul on June 14.



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GIRLS GOLF

Stillwater holds off Zephyrs to win section crown

BY STUART GROSKREUTZ
THE GAZETTE

FOREST LAKE — A steady second day was all that was required and the Stillwater girls golf team delivered while wrapping up its fourth straight Section 4AAA championship on Friday, June 3 at Tanners Brook Golf Club.

The Ponies shot 341 on Day 1 of the tourney on Wednesday, June 1 to open up an eight-shot lead over Mahtomedi. Stillwater and the Zephyrs each posted scores of 357 on the second round to give the Ponies a 698-706 victory. White Bear Lake followed in third at 717.

“The first day it was trying to get the nerves out and get our feet underneath us,” Ponies coach Philip Herder said. “The second day we realized if we just play our game and not think about what anyone else is doing and just how we can eventually have the lowest score we can on certain holes — just not get in our own way. I think for the most part we were able to do that.”

“We had a lot of good

things we can take a way from it. We had some negatives, too, and we didn’t perform as well as we had hoped but we’re very satisfied with taking the section and going to state.”

The state meet is scheduled for June 14-15 at Bunker Hills Golf Club, with the girls teeing off in the afternoon session.

Senior Caroline Monty, one of just two Ponies with prior state experience, turned in a two-day total of 155 (80-75) to finish just one shot behind individual medalist Gabby Ishaq (75-79—154) of St. Paul Highland Park.

By the time Monty and Ishaq arrived at the 18th tee they were tied with a comfortable gap on third place and outcome of the team chase was practically decided.

“It was a fun battle to watch Carol and Gabby,” Herder said. “It was quite the battle the second round and the last few holes you could tell they knew where they stood entering the last hole tied. It was just fun to watch for us coaches and parents. It had that state mindset



The Stillwater girls golf team won its fourth consecutive Section 4AAA championship on Friday, June 3 at Tanners Brooke Golf Course in Forest Lake. Team members include, from left, Vyan Abdullah, Sarah Strub, Jowan Abdullah, Caroline Monty, Greta Sorenson and Lexi Thompson. (Contributed photo)

or pressure going into the last hole.”

Both players were chipping for their third shots just off the green on the par-five finishing hole. They each ran those chips past the hole, but Ishaq was able to two-putt from there for par while Monty made bogey.

“It was fun to watch coming down the wire, even though it didn’t turn out the way we would have liked for Carol,” Herder said.

Monty’s two-day total was 12 shots better than

Mahtomedi’s top finisher, providing a big boost for the Ponies as the teams were more evenly matched at the other five positions in the lineup.

“We know that we can count on Carol for what she can shoot and that’s what allowed us to compete in our conference and win our section,” Herder said. “Having that consistent player has really helped us.”

“The rest of our team we’ve kind of taken turns with different scores and different girls we’ve taken their best scores from. We’ll look to keep it more consistent as we go into state so we can continue to compete against those other schools.”

Vyan Abdullah was next for the Ponies with a score of 175, good enough for sixth place. Her opening-round 82 was just two shots behind Monty.

“That really helped,” Herder said. “If she can shoot that, it will really help our team be that much better. She’s certainly capable of continuing that.”

Lexi Thompson also scored 11 shots lower in the opening round and finished tied for ninth at 185 (87-98).

“We were very pleased with some of their performances, especially on

the first day,” Herder said. “The first day for all teams was better. The weather was perfect and there was no wind. The second day was also a decent day, but the thing that changed was the wind and at Tanners that can have a huge impact on their shots.”

Jowan Abdullah placed 13th with a score of 187 (96-91) and Sarah Strub was four shots back at 191 (92-99). Greta Sorenson finished at 210 (105-105).

“I think we realize we haven’t played our best yet and there’s a lot of strokes we can get just over the next week with course management that will allow us to compete more at state once we get there. There’s definitely some strokes we left out there so we can go back and see where we might have a bogey instead of a quad.”

“For the rest of the team our goal is to get under 90. If we have a few girls get under 90 that will really help us compete.”

And while this is the fourth straight trip to state for the Ponies, it will be the first for the majority of this year’s lineup.

“The others were on JV last year and making way up through the team,” Herder said. “This was the first time for a lot of them at sections and it will be

their first opportunity for state. It’s definitely different. You get to the post-season and you feel those nerves a little bit.”

Monty named finalist

Stillwater senior Caroline Monty has been named one of eight finalists for Ms. Minnesota Golf, which is presented annually “to recognize the outstanding male and female high school senior golfer based on their performance on the golf course, academic achievement and strength of character.”

The finalists are chosen by a committee of high school coaches and amateur golf representatives.

Joining Monty, a University of St. Thomas recruit, among this year’s female finalists are: Ellie Breuer (St. Michael-Albertville), Emma Davies (Eden Prairie), Madison Hicks (Chanhassen), Cora Larson (Alexandria), McKenna Mallow (Detroit Lakes), Isabella McCauley (Simley) and Samantha Youngquist (Chaska).

The finalists will be honored and the Ms. and Mr. Minnesota Golf winners will be announced during a ceremony on Sunday June 12 at Windsong Farm Golf Club.

Team standings

1. Stillwater 341-357—698; 2. Mahtomedi 349-357—706; 3. White Bear Lake 352-365—717. **Did not make cut:** 4. St. Paul Highland Park 411; 5. North St. Paul 452; 6. St. Paul Central 462.

Stillwater results (par 71)

2. Caroline Monty 80-75—155; T6. Vyan Abdullah 82-93—175; T9. Lexi Thompson 87-98—185; 13. Jowan Abdullah 96-91—187; 16. Sarah Strub 92-99—191; 21. Greta Sorenson 105-105—210. **Medalist** — 1. Gabby Ishaq (SPHP) 75-79—154.

Individual state qualifiers

1. Gabby Ishaq (SPHP) 75-79—154; 3. Lexie McGrane (Mah) 83-84—167; 4. Gianna McLeod (WBL) 82-90—172; 5. Reagan Juhl (Mah) 85-88—173; T6. Kristina Pratt (WBL) 88-87—175.

10 years ago this week ...

Softball — After throwing a no-hitter in the quarterfinals, junior Hannah Heacox continued with a strong effort throughout to help send the Stillwater softball team to a 6-2 victory over top-seeded Maple Grove to capture the Class AAA state championship. Allison Eder-Zdechlik and Dani Wigen add two hits apiece for the Ponies (21-8), whose eight losses are the most of any large-school state champion since the inaugural state tourney in 1977.

Boys track and field — Junior Wayde Hall places third in the 1,600 meters (4:14.58) and 3,200 meters (9:19.68) to pace the Stillwater boys track and field team in the Class AA state meet. The Ponies totaled 27 points to finish 10th in the team standings. Tom Linner places seventh in the 800 (1:55.57) and eighth in the 1,600 (4:19.66) while Eric Colvin adds an seventh-place finish in the 3,200 (9:25.55) for the Ponies. In the field events, Nate Bird places eighth in the discus (153-2) and Connor O’Neill finishes ninth in the pole vault (13-6).

Girls track and field — Kelcie Kempenich and Natalie Phippen contribute to second-place finishes in the 4x200 and 4x400 relays for the Stillwater girls track and field team at the Class AA state meet. Bethany Adkins and Alex Crain fill out the runner-up 4x200 relay team, which sets a school record with a time of 1:41.76, while Fiona Montie and Maria Morley complete the 4x400 relay team (3:57.15).



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This is a look back at some of the people and teams making news in the St. Croix Valley 10 years ago, as reported in the Stillwater Gazette.

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SOFTBALL

White Bear Lake stops Ponies in section finals

BY STUART GROSKREUTZ
THE GAZETTE

NORTH ST. PAUL — After slipping past the Ponies to claim the Suburban East Conference championship, White Bear Lake held off Stillwater to earn an even bigger prize while capturing the Sec-

tion 4AAAA softball tournament title on Thursday, June 2 at McKnight Fields.

Stillwater outlasted the top-seeded Bears 6-4 in nine innings to force a second championship game in the double-elimination tournament, but a sluggish

See Softball, Page 19

LOCAL SCHEDULE

Friday, June 10

Nothing scheduled

Saturday, June 11

Boys track and field — State meet at STMA, 4 p.m.

Girls track and field — State meet at STMA, 4 p.m.

Sunday, June 12

Nothing scheduled

Monday, June 13

Nothing scheduled

Tuesday, June 14

Baseball — Class AAAA state quarterfinals at CHS Field, TBA

Boys golf — Class AAA state meet at Bunker Hills, 7:30 a.m.

Girls golf — Class AAA state meet at Bunker Hills, noon

Boys lacrosse — State quarterfinals at SAHS, TBA

Girls lacrosse — State quarterfinals at Roseville, TBA

Wednesday, June 15

Baseball — State semifinals at CHS Field, noon/2:30 p.m.

Boys golf — Class AAA state meet at Bunker Hills, 7:30 a.m.

Girls golf — Class AAA state meet at Bunker Hills, noon

Thursday, June 16

Boys lacrosse — State semifinals at Roseville, 3/5 p.m.

Girls lacrosse — State semifinals at SAHS, 3/5 p.m.

Friday, June 17

Baseball — Class AAAA state finals at Target Field, 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 18

Boys lacrosse — State tournament at SAHS/RAHS, TBA

Girls lacrosse — State tournament at SAHS/RAHS, TBA

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LACROSSE

(Continued from page 15)

we're gonna prove it. It's gonna be exciting."

Mahtomedi	0	0	2	1	—	3
Stillwater	3	2	2	1	—	8

Goals — Mah, Jackson Johnson, Oskar Magnusson and Eric Buthke; St, Tommy Lindeberg 3, Tomas Anderson, Aidan Anderson, Carter Bies, Brock Lynskey and Sammy Ness.

Assists — Mah, Jack Zell, Owen Knapp and Nolan Dimitri; St, Ben Shockency 2, Lindeberg, A. Anderson, Bies and Ness.

Saves — Mah, Caden Donahue 6; St, Vincent Burkhart 5.

Stillwater 10, White Bear Lake 6

At Oak Park Heights, Tommy Lindeberg delivered four goals and Carter Bies added three to pace the Ponies in a 10-6 section semifinal victory over White Bear (11-4) Lake on Friday, June 3 at SAHS.

Tomas Anderson, Aidan Anderson and Blake Rose added a goal each for the Ponies, who outscored the Bears 4-2 in the fourth quarter to pull away.

Cooper Arens finished with 14 saves for the Ponies.

White Bear Lake	1	1	2	2	—	6
Stillwater	2	2	2	4	—	10

Goals — WBL, Shea Raeburn 2, Mario Bailey 2, Devin Mueller and Finn Karni; St, Tommy Lindeberg 4, Carter Bies 3, Tomas Anderson, Aidan Anderson and Blake Rose.

Assists — WBL, Mueller, Preston West and Donovan Morris; St, A. Anderson 3, Lindeberg 2 and Owen Grau.

Saves — WBL, Brock Olilla 11; St, Cooper Arens 14.

BOYS GOLF



Members of the Stillwater boys golf team who captured the Section 4AAA championship on Friday, June 3 at Bunker Hills Golf Course in Coon Rapids, include, from left, head coach John Scanlon, Ryan Stanek, Zeke Roberts, assistant coach Joey Murphy (front), Dane Berggren, Tyler Coleman, Tim Fultz and Eric Liveringhouse. (Contributed photo)

Fultz, Roberts pace Ponies to section title

BY STUART GROSKREUTZ
THE GAZETTE

COON RAPIDS — The Stillwater boys golf team swept the top two individual spots and won its first Section 4AAA championship since 2019 on Friday, June 3 at Bunker Hills Golf Course.

The Ponies built an 11-shot lead after the first round and held off runner-up Mahtomedi 623-632 to earn a spot in the state meet, which is scheduled for June 14-15 at Bunker Hills. White Bear Lake finished third with a two-day total of 642.

Those were the same teams making up the top three a year ago when Mahtomedi won the tie-breaker with White Bear Lake to advance after both teams finished three shots ahead of the Ponies.

"I'm really proud of this team," Ponies coach John Scanlon said. "Obviously it was a challenging April with terrible weather for practice or early tournaments. It was great to see the guys improve this year. They are a very hard-working team, but also very tough in how they face adversity."

In a lineup that features four sophomores or younger, senior Tim Fultz claimed medalist honors with a total of 152 (72-79), which was one shot better than freshman teammate Zeke Roberts (153).

"Fultz combined power and finesse to earn his first trip to state,"

Scanlon said. "He struck the ball well on Day 1, but left a couple short game opportunities out there. Day 2 was the opposite with a more challenging long game and great short game."

It marked the seventh time in the past 13 seasons that Stillwater has produced the individual section medalist. Previous winners include Hudson Carpenter (2009), Drew Lynch (2011), Lars Lillehei (2012), Parker Anderson (2017), Cole Jahnke (2018) and Brock Winter (2019).

"Best of all, he is a great person and got a huge ovation from teammates, competitors, and other coaches in receiving his medalist honors," Scanlon said.

Roberts was steady both days, following up an opening-round 75 with a 78 on Day 2.

"Zeke is incredible," Scanlon said. "As a freshman, he has the poise and maturity of a senior. Like Tim, he is also a great person and everyone loves Zeke. His birdies on No. 18 put an exclamation point on two excellent rounds. This is Zeke's ninth round in a row in the 70s since April 28, including tough courses such as Edinburgh, Midland Hills, Forest Hills, Eagle Valley, Troy Burne and Bunker Hills."

Sophomore Tyler Coleman landed fifth for the Ponies in the individual standings with a total of 157 (80-77), notching the low round for the Ponies on Day 2. Eric Livering-

house, the other senior in Stillwater's lineup, placed 14th at 163 (81-82), which was one shot ahead of sophomore teammate Dane Berggren (84-80—164). Eighth-grader Ryan Stanek was also solid while shooting 166 (81-85).

"Coleman saved his best golf for the second day of sections, making birdie on No. 11 to get back to even," Scanlon said. "After a small rough patch of bogeys, Tyler was able to right the ship with a solid closing par."

This will be the 11th state tournament appearance for the Ponies, who previously competed at state in 1966, 1978, 1993, 1995, 2007, 2009, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Team standings

1. Stillwater 309-314—623; 2. Mahtomedi 320-312—632; 3. White Bear Lake 323-319—642; 4. Cretin-Derham Hall 333-325—658; 5. Tartan 330-343—673; 6. St. Paul Highland Park 355-363—718. **Did not make cut:** 7. St. Paul Johnson 383; 8. St. Paul Central 438; 9. North St. Paul 493.

Stillwater results (par 72)

1. Tim Fultz 72-79—152; 2. Zeke Roberts 75-78—153; 5. Tyler Coleman 80-77—157; 14. Eric Liveringhouse 81-82—163; T15. Dane Berggren 84-80—164; T17. Ryan Stanek 81-85—166.

Individual state qualifiers

3. Luke Walker (Tartan) 73-82—155; 4. Joe Honsa (C-DH) 79-77—156; 6, tie, Ryan Jamieson (WBL) 84-74—158, Daniel Gabrio (Mah) 80-78—158 and Jacob Wilson (Mah) 76-82—158.

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BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

Ponies sending large cast to state meet

Stillwater cruises to Section 4AAA title

BY STUART GROSKREUTZ
THE GAZETTE

OAK PARK HEIGHTS — The Stillwater boys track and field team will be well represented at the inaugural Class AAA state meet after claiming the Section 4AAA title by a wide margin on Thursday, June 2 at Stillwater Area High School.

The Ponies racked up 298 points to outdistance runner-up White Bear Lake (238) and third-place St. Paul Central (121). By comparison, Stillwater last year's 15-team Section 4AA title with 198.5 points.

"It went pretty much as well as expected," said Ponies coach Scott Christensen, whose track teams have now won 28 MSHSL section titles in the past 41 seasons. "I thought we'd score around 300 points, and as unbelievable as that sounds, that's what we did. I'm happy with my team but the meet itself — it's not the section meet of old that's for sure."

The pay-off with all those points is Stillwater earning a total of 18 entries for the new-look state meet, which began on Thursday, June 9 for Class AAA teams and concludes on Saturday, June 11 at St. Michael-Albertville High School. Not including alternates, the Ponies qualified 19 athletes for state competing in 15 individual events and three relays. Stillwater has one or more qualifiers in 14 of 18 events.

"Like any sports things, we had our ups and downs but we had a lot more ups than downs," Christensen said.

Stillwater crowned eight section champions and qualified two individual entries in four different events, including the 400- and 800-meters, the long jump and the high jump.

Thomas Rosengren (49.81) and Soel Riser (52.07) swept the top two places for the Ponies in the 400 meters while Will De-



The Stillwater boys track and field team easily outdistanced the rest of the eight-team field to win the Section 4AAA championship on Thursday, June 2 at Stillwater Area High School. (Contributed photo by David Brandt)

Gonda (2:01.24) and Mason Vagle (2:01.87) finished 1-2 in the 800. The top two finishers and relay teams in each event qualify for state.

Stillwater's Jonathan Roux also advanced to state after winning the 3,200 race in a time of 9:30.27.

Also on the track, Connor McCormick advanced to state with a runner-up finish in the 110 high hurdles (15.10) and Chance Swenson qualified in the 300 intermediate hurdles with a second-place finish in 40.62. Riley Buxell, a soccer player who joined track this spring added seventh-place finishes in both events.

"Two years ago none of those hurdlers were on the team and now we're great in the hurdles," Christensen said. "Chance just came out this year and Connor just came out for first time last year. We would have been nowhere without those guys in the hurdles."

Stillwater also won section titles in the 4x400 and 4x800 relays and finished second to earn a spot in the 4x100 relay.

Swenson, Vagle, Riser and

Rosengren won the 4x400 (3:28.80) by more than nine seconds over the runner-up team from Woodbury (3:38.05). Cohen Smith, Alexander Gardner, Ryan Potter and Vagle also won the 4x800 in a time of 8:11.14.

The Ponies also advanced with Seth Johnson, Thomas Blair, Ryan McDowell and Sam Young finishing second in the 4x100 relay (44.57).

Johnson provided one of the biggest surprises with a victory in the long jump (21-4 1/2). McDowell also advanced to state after finishing second with a distance of 21-2 1/4.

"That's a good jump," Christensen said of Johnson.

Caleb Tussey (6-0) and Chase Johnson (5-10) grabbed the top two spots for the Ponies in the high jump and Jackson Tweed cleared 13-0 to win the pole vault.

McDowell added a second-place finish in the triple jump with a distance of 44-3 1/4. Stillwater also fared well in the throws with Chris Fretag placing second in the shot put (49-10) and Charlie Gleason taking second in the discus (155-1).

Team standings

1. Stillwater 298; 2. White Bear Lake 238; 3. St. Paul Central 121; 4. Woodbury 112; 5. Tartan 57; 6. Cretin-Derham Hall 34; 7. St. Paul Harding 26; 8. North St. Paul 12.

Individual results

100 — *1. Eli Ebbert (WBL) 10.94; *2. Harlow Tong (SPC) 11.11; 8. Sam Young (St) 11.82; 9. Seth Johnson (St) 11.85.

200 — *1. Harlow Tong (SPC) 22.35; *2. Caleb Anderson (St) 23.00; Thomas Rosengren (St) DQ.

400 — *1. Thomas Rosengren (St) 49.81; *2. Soel Riser (St) 52.07; 6. Thomas Cass (St) 55.40.

800 — *1. Will DeGonda (St) 2:01.24; *2. Mason Vagle (St) 2:01.87; 6. Alexander Gardner (St) 2:06.96.

1,600 — *1. Ernest Mattson (WBL) 4:26.86; *2. Luke Williams (WBL) 4:29.95; 3. Jonathan Roux (St) 4:36.31; 5. Ryan Kilbarda (St) 4:42.58; 7. Mason Foster (St) 4:51.14.

3,200 — *1. Jonathan Roux (St) 9:30.27; *2. Ernest Mattson (WBL) 9:33.88; 5. Ryan Kilbarda (St) 10:04.82; 7. Ethan Foote (St) 10:16.07.

110 hurdles — *1. Arthur Perron (WBL) 14.86; *2. Connor McCormick (St) 15.10; 4. Chance Swenson (St) 15.96; 7. Riley Buxell (St) 16.45.

300 hurdles — *1. Arthur Perron (WBL) 40.36; *2. Chance Swenson (St) 40.62; 4. Connor McCormick (St) 41.85; 7. Riley Buxell (St) 43.71.

4x100 relay — *1. White Bear Lake, 43.28; *2. Stillwater (Seth Johnson, Thomas Blair, Ryan McDowell and Sam Young) 44.57.

4x200 relay — *1. White Bear Lake, 1:31.79; *2. Tartan, 1:31.84; 3. Stillwater (Sam Young, Soel Riser, Thomas Blair and Ryan McDowell) 1:32.52.

4x400 relay — *1. Stillwater (Chance Swenson, Mason Vagle, Soel Riser and Thomas Rosengren) 3:28.80; *2. Woodbury, 3:38.05.

4x800 relay — *1. Stillwater (Cohen Smith, Alexander Gardner, Ryan Potter and Mason Vagle) 8:11.14; *2. Woodbury, 8:17.38.

Long jump — *1. Seth Johnson (St) 21-4 1/2; *2. Ryan McDowell (St) 21-2 1/4; 11. Eli Aldridge (St) 18-4 1/2.

Triple jump — *1. Carlton Mukurazita (SPC) 45-6 1/2; *2. Ryan McDowell (St) 44-3 1/4; 11. Seth Johnson (St) 39-4; 13. Brett Hilde (St) 37-11 1/2.

Shot put — *1. Jordan Dunigan (Wo) 53-9 1/4; *2. Chris Fretag (St) 49-10; 3. Justin Fretag (St) 48-3 1/2; 9. John Lomen (St) 39-5 1/4.

Discus — *1. Jordan Dunigan (Wo) 178-6; *2. Charlie Gleason (St) 155-1; 3. Chris Fretag (St) 148-6; 4. Justin Fretag (St) 147-3.

High jump — *1. Caleb Tussey (St) 6-0; *2. Chase Johnson (St) 5-10; 6. Nagayo Barento (St) 5-6.

Pole vault — *1. Jackson Tweed (St) 13-0; *2. Nathan Thibaudreau (NSP) 12-0; 3. Andrew Brekke (St) 11-6; 4. Sam Stonehouse (St) 11-6.

* state qualifiers

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BASEBALL

(Continued from page 13)

ER 0000000 — 0 2 3
St 001210x — 4 8 1

WP: Josh Wallace 7-ip, 2-h, 0-r, 0-er, 0-bb, 5-so

LP: Brady Soenen 4 2/3-ip, 7-h, 4-r, 3-er, 3-bb, 1-so

Leading hitters: ER, Weber Neels 1x3 (2B) and Diego Jirau

1x3; St, Brayden Hellum 1x4, Alex Matchey 1x3, Mason McCurdy 1x2 (2B), Mason Buck 3x4 (RBI), Josh Wallace 1x3 and Tanner Voight 1x2 (3B, RBI).

Stillwater 12, Woodbury 2 (5 inn.)

At Roseville, the Ponies scored early and often while dispatching Woodbury 12-2 in five innings in the winners bracket finals on Thursday, June 2 at the

University of Northwestern.

Stillwater scored three runs in the first and six more in the second while building a 9-1 lead.

Austin Buck and Jacob Carlson paced the Ponies with three hits apiece. Austin Buck also led the Ponies with four RBIs.

"It was just our team approach of hitting the ball the other way," Parker

said. "Our guys went up there with confidence and that's the kind of games we've been playing all year is hit the ball hard and run the bases. Up and down the lineup, guys are getting the job done and that was a really good display of the depth of our team."

Stillwater tacked on two runs in the third and another on an error in the bottom of the fifth to in-

voke the 10-run rule.

"That 12th run was really important because those guys at any time can explode for runs," Parker said. "That's about as stressful as a game can be when you're up by nine runs."

Woodbury 01010 — 2 9 0
Stillwater 36201 — 12 10 0

WP: Josh Wallace 4 1/3-ip, 7-h, 1-r, 1-er, 1-bb, 4-so

LP: J. Minor 1/3-ip, 3-h, 3-r, 3-er, 1-bb, 0-so

Leading hitters: Wo, Lucas McNellis 2x2 and Jack Huberty 2x2, George Bjellos 1x1 (2B) and Joey Gerlach 1x3 (3B); St, Brayden Hellum 1x1 (3 runs), Alex Matchey 1x2 (3B, 3 runs), Mason Buck 0x3 (2 RBI), Austin Buck 3x4 (4 RBI), Jacob Carlson 3x3 (RBI) and Josh Wallace 2x3 (2 RBI).

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GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

Stillwater captures inaugural Section 4AAA crown

BY STUART GROSKREUTZ
THE GAZETTE

OAK PARK HEIGHTS — The Stillwater girls track and field team finished first in four events on the way to a victory in the Section 4AAA Meet on Thursday, June 2 at Stillwater Area High School. The Ponies scored 255 points to outlast runner-up St. Paul Central (173.5) while White Bear Lake (150.5) followed in third place.

This is the first year of the three-class format in track and field. Stillwater placed second in Section 4AA a year ago.

“It was different because it’s the first year with three classes and different competition,” Ponies coach Dawn Podolske said. “It was a smaller meet and just a lot different than our previous section meets.”

Stillwater earned a total of 14 entries for the state meet, including the 4x400 and 4x800 relays. The top two finishers in each event — in addition to any bettering the state qualifying standard — advance to state, which is scheduled for June 9 and 11 at St. Michael-Albertville High School.

“Most of the kids who did get in we expected to get in,” Podolske said. “I thought Central really had a nice team and some great individuals. It was a good meet. Going into the state meet it’s going to be different.

We ran on a really windy day so our times aren’t going to be all that great, but we hope that they make it to finals and get some PRs for a lot of these kids.”

The Ponies received a 1-2 finish from Kayla Nelson (1:03.04) and Karina Fischer (1:03.39) in the 400 meters and Morgan Peterman added a victory in the 800 meters with a time of 2:17.08.

“Kayla is a senior so that’s really exciting,” Podolske said. “She’s been running very well in the 400. Karina is new to the sport and we’ve got some other young kids competing for the first time at this level.”

Freshman Liberty Quast, a state gymnastics qualifier this past winter, advanced to state in the 100 meters after placing second in a time of 12.67 — finishing just .03 ahead of third-place finisher Lys-aurele D’almeida (12.70) of White Bear Lake.

“She is another person who has come on so strong,” Podolske said. “She was in a couple of our relays but we’re excited for her to make it in the open 100.

“She came from cross-country and I knew she had speed so she was running the 400 and 200 and the last few weeks really improving in the 100.”

At the opposite end of the distance scale, Brooke Elfert qualified with a runner-up finish in the 3,200 meters with a time of 11:56.38.

Chelsea Stahl also advanced to state in the 100 hurdles, finishing second in a time of 16.61. “Chelsea Stahl had a really good meet,” Podolske said.

Nelson, Fischer and Peterman also joined Avery Braunshausen to win the 4x400 relay in a time of 4:08.46, nearly five seconds ahead of the runner-up team from White Bear Lake (4:13.32). Ann McGlynn, Elfert, Lauren Willhaus and Braunshausen finished second in the 4x800 relay with a time of 1:01.04.

Stillwater’s other section champ was Sophia Roskoski in the pole vault (11-1).

“She’s had a really good season, but there’s a lot of great vaulters,” Podolske said.

Roskoski will have familiar company in the event as Marcella Wait finished second with a height of 10-1. Wait pulled off an impressive double while also qualifying for state in the discus with a throw of 113-8. It is not a common second event for most vaulters.

“She threw outstanding,” Podolske said. “It’s so fun to see someone just go out and attack and get in. She had a really good meet and she’s had a really good season. She’s progressed so much from a year ago.”

Kylie Galowitz added a runner-up finish in the shot put (32-4 1/4 while Cayman Pagel finished in the long jump (17-1). The Ponies will also be represented in the high jump after Kayla Kajer finished second with a height of 4-8.

“For Kylie to get second in the shot was great,” Podolske said. “She’s a senior and she has put a lot of time in and she was throwing quite well.”

Pagel jumped farther during the conference meet, but this was still good enough to advance out of sections.

“She has the potential to do well at state if she can jump her best,” Podolske said.

Team standings

1. Stillwater 255; 2. St. Paul Central 173.5; 3. White Bear Lake 150.5; 4. Woodbury 134.5; 5. Tartan 77.5; 6. Cretin-Derham Hall 45.5; 7. North St. Paul 41.5; 8. St. Paul Harding 18.

Stillwater results

100 — *1. Tamia Horton (NSP) 12.48; *2. Liberty Quast (St) 12.67.

200 — *1. Madison Simmers (Wo) 26.64; *2. Tamia Horton (NSP) 26.94; 4. Cayman Pagel (St) 27.12; 9. Katherine Fischer (St) 28.52.

400 — *1. Kayla Nelson (St) 1:03.04; *2. Karina Fischer (St) 1:03.39; 4. Julianne Kurth (St) 1:04.28.

800 — *1. Morgan Peterman (St) 2:17.08; *2. Katelyn Porter (WBL) 2:23.53; 5. Ann McGlynn (St) 2:31.50; 11. Lauren Willhaus (St) 2:41.29.

1,600 — *1. Iris Guider (SPC) 5:14.82; *2. Laura McClary (SPC) 5:39.48; 4. Abigail Rupnow (St) 5:50.95; 8. Elly Flaherty (St) 6:01.79; 9. Kathryn Wiens (St) 6:19.70.

3,200 — *1. Iris Guider (SPC) 11:13.91; *2. Brooke Elfert (St) 11:56.38; 5. Stella Hicks (St) 12:26.29; 8. Meredith Christensen (St) 13:24.94.

100 hurdles — *1. Lily Hammacher (SPC) 16.08; *2. Chelsea Stahl (St) 16.61;

6. Kayla Kajer (St) 17.57; 7. Nora Wilcek (St) 18.10.

300 hurdles — *1. Lily Hammacher (SPC) 46.54; *2. Anna Gregg-Escalante (SPC) 47.99; 5. Chelsea Stahl (St) 50.66; 6. Anna Bushlack (St) 50.73; 8. Lucy Wilcek (St) 52.26.

4x100 relay — *1. Woodbury, 50.07; *2. White Bear Lake, 51.28; 3. Stillwater (Mary Slowinski, Liberty Quast, Cayman Pagel and Eva Stafne) 51.64.

4x200 relay — *1. Woodbury, 1:46.53; *2. White Bear Lake, 1:49.06; 3. Stillwater (Mary Slowinski, Katherine Fischer, Julianne Kurth and Cayman Pagel) 1:32.52.

4x400 relay — *1. Stillwater (Kayla Nelson, Avery Braunshausen, Karina Fischer and Morgan Peterman) 4:08.46; *2. White Bear Lake, 4:13.32.

4x800 relay — *1. Woodbury, 9:53.30; *2. Stillwater (Ann McGlynn, Brooke Elfert, Lauren Willhaus and Avery Braunshausen) 10:01.04.

Long jump — *1. Lillian Orf (Wo) 17-2; *2. Cayman Pagel (St) 17-1; 10. Olivia Madison (St) 14-2 3/4; 11. Alexa Lehman (St) 14-0.

Triple jump — *1. Anneteke Adoga (Wo) 36-9 1/4; *2. Lily Hammacher (SPC) 35-7; 6. Karina Fischer (St) 32-10 3/4; 7. Nora Wilcek (St) 32-5; 12. Jonna Swanson (St) 29-5.

Shot put — *1. Oreoluwa Olusi (WBL) 38-10 1/2; *2. Kylie Galowitz (St) 32-4 1/4; 4. Karley Galowitz (St) 31-2 1/4; 15. Sylvia Boyum (St) 23- 1/2.

Discus — *1. Oreoluwa Olusi (WBL) 130-5; *2. Marcella Wait (St) 113-8; 3. Kylie Galowitz (St) 111-3; 6. Maysen Puhrmann (St) 86-11.

High jump — *1. Samara Jones (Tar) 4-9; *2. Kayla Kajer (4-8; T5. Sadie Bettendorf (St) 4-4; 8. Morgan Delaney (St) 4-4.

Pole vault — *1. Sophia Roskoski (St) 11-1; *2. Marcella Wait (St) 10-1; 3. Peyton Pfannenstien (St) 9-7.

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SOFTBALL

(Continued from page 16)

start plagued the Ponies in a 6-5 loss in Game 2.

The second-seeded Ponies (21-5) were seeking their fourth consecutive trip to the state tournament, but instead White Bear Lake (21-3) advanced to state for the first time since 2002. The Bears earned the No. 1 seed and were scheduled to face Lakeville South in the quarterfinals on Thursday, June 9.

“They got the No. 1 seed so clearly they belong there,” Ponies coach Angie Ryan said of the Bears. “I think we did, too, but obviously it was a tough draw this year.”

Forest Lake out of Section 7AAAA and East Ridge out of Section 3AAAA also advanced to state, giving the Suburban East Conference three state qualifiers.

After the emotional extra-inning victory in the

opener, Stillwater jumped out to a 1-0 run in the top of the first.

Alexis Monty singled and was bunted to second by Amber Scalia. She moved to third on a wild pitch and scored on a sacrifice fly by Cat Smetana.

But the Ponies were unable to maintain that momentum in the bottom half, committing errors on the first three balls that were put into play. White Bear Lake surged in front with two runs and then tacked on three more in the second — with help from another error — to build a 5-1 lead.

“We couldn’t have drawn it up any better,” Ryan said of manufacturing that first run. “It’s obviously important to get the momentum, but then we had three errors to start the game and just handed them two runs right away.”

The Ponies finished with seven hits against junior Chloe Barber, but couldn’t get over the hump after the early deficit. Stillwater

sandwiched a run each in the fourth and sixth inning around two runs in the fifth, but the Ponies stranded runners on second and third in the fifth and left the bases loaded in the sixth.

“Scoring five runs against White Bear Lake and Barber is definitely really good,” Ryan said. “That wasn’t why we lost. Scoring five runs should have been enough to beat them.”

Keira Murphy limited the Bears to five hits and three walks with four strikeouts.

“Keira pitched a really good game, especially for having thrown nine innings right before that,” Ryan said. “I was really impressed with her outing. Keira really competed on the mound.”

The Ponies found more success after managing just two hits off Barber in a 1-0 shutout loss to the Bears in the winners bracket finals two days earlier.

“Offensively, we made a ton of adjustments between Tuesday and Thursday to score more runs,” Ryan said. “We scored five in the second game and six in the first, so we played well offensively.”

It was a tough way to end what has been a remarkable run for the Ponies the past several seasons and the six graduating seniors who have played key roles. After winning a state title in 2018, the Ponies finished as the state runner-up in 2019 and also qualified for state a year ago. The 2020 season was canceled due to COVID-19.

“They had a huge impact on the program and they’re all tremendous softball players and have dedicated thousands of hours to get better,” Ryan said. “They’re a really solid group and we’re certainly going to miss them.”

• It was a few days later than they were hoping, but Stillwater seniors Cat Smetana, Keira Murphy and Taylor Gray will each

be playing in the Minnesota Softball All-Star Series in North Mankato on Sunday, June 12.

St 1001210 — 5 7 5
WBL 230100x — 6 5 1

WP: Chloe Barber 7-ip, 7-h, 5-r, 4-er, 5-bb, 5-so

LP: Keira Murphy 6-ip, 5-h, 6-r, 2-er, 3-bb, 4-so

Leading hitters: St, Alexis Monty 1x5, Amber Scalia 1x3 (run), Cat Smetana 1x2 (RBI), Addie Coffey 3x3 (run) and Gaby LaFavor 1x4 (2 RBI).

Stillwater 6, WBL 4 (9 inn.)

The Ponies kept their season alive with a 6-4 victory over White Bear Lake in nine innings during the first championship game on June 7.

Stillwater trailed 2-1 until rallying for two runs in the top of the seventh a two-out RBI single by Amber Scalia and the go-ahead run scored on a base hit by Maddie Johnson.

The Bears answered with a run in the bottom of the seventh and it remained tied at 3-all until Stillwater

surged in front with three runs in the ninth. Scalia walked to start the inning and Johnson drew a walk before Cat Smetana pushed home a run with a single. Lily Grundner laid down a squeeze bunt to score Johnson from third and Taylor Gray drove an RBI triple to put the Ponies in front 6-3.

The Bears came back with a run in the bottom of the ninth, but Keira Murphy shut the door. The senior allowed 13 hits, but did not walk a batter and struck out six.

St 100000203 — 6 10 3
WBL 020000101 — 4 13 0

WP: Keira Murphy 9-ip, 13-h, 4-r, 3-er, 0-bb, 6-so

LP: Chloe Barber 9-ip, 10-h, 6-r, 6-er, 4-bb, 12-so

Leading hitters: St, Alexis Monty 1x5 (run), Maddie Johnson 1x2 (run, RBI), Cat Smetana 1x5 (RBI), Addie Coffey 2x5 (2B, RBI), Taylor Gray 1x5 (3B, RBI), Keira Murphy 1x5, Gaby LaFavor 1x2 (run) and Amber Scalia 2x3 (2 runs, RBI); WBL, H. Barber 2x5, C. Barber 2x5, J. Meyer 2x5, A. Taylor 1x5, S. Larson 1x4 (RBI) and C. Griebel 2x5 (RBI).