

## SPORTS &amp; CLASSIFIEDS



Austin's state track and field qualifiers include, from left, Tommy Firtz, A'triel Terry, Nicolas Asmus, Joe Walker, Kaden Murley, Olivia Walsh and Soren Villafane. Not pictured is Joe Ewing. Photos by Rocky Hulne/sports@austindailyherald.com

# 8 Packers are ready to experience the state track

By Rocky Hulne  
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What a difference a year makes.

A year after it did not qualify any athletes for the state meet, the Packer track and field team has its biggest group of state qualifiers in a decade and the group of eight qualifiers will compete at St. Michael/Albertville on Friday and Saturday.

Austin was given a better chance for postseason success this season as the Minnesota State High School League added a third track and field class, with the Packers remaining a Class AA team. That meant Austin avoided the bigger and deeper teams like Farmington and Lakeville North in last week's Section 1AA meet.

Austin junior Olivia Walsh took advantage of the changes by qualifying for her third state meet of the year. Walsh was in the state swimming meet in the fall and played with the Packer girls basketball team in the state tournament this winter.

"It's a lot easier when you know that you have a chance. We won't be going against these insane athletes at state. That definitely helps," said Walsh, who will compete in the high jump and triple jump. "My goal this



Kaden Murley leads the pack during track and field practice at Larry Gilbertson Track and Field Monday.

year was to go to state in all three sports and I'm really happy that I was able to achieve that. It was a lot of hard work in practice and staying mentally tough, especially with the rough weather we had. We didn't have a lot of practice time."

The boys group of state qualifiers includes the 4 x 100-meter relay team of Tommy Fritz, who is coming off a knee injury that kept him out of football in the fall, Joe Walker, A'Triel Terry and the 4 x 400-meter relay team of Kaden Murley, Soren Villafane, Nicolas Asmus and Terry.

"It's good to experience things for the first time with a good supporting cast," said Murley, a senior. "We all know each other and we all want to support one another."

Walker will also compete in long jump and Terry will compete in high jump, where he rediscovered his form at the Section 1AA meet. Terry hit a height of 6 foot, 4-inches in his first meet of the season, but he hit a slump before hitting 6-3 at the Section 1AA Meet.

"That's the first time I've jumped that high in a very long time," Terry said. "I've just got to keep working on it. It's very frustrating, especially when you can't reach the goals that you're trying to reach. The form part of it is very hard."

Terry and Murley were both members of the Austin boys basketball team that made it to state this past winter and they were able to make the quick turnaround to track season by

taking the first week of practice off to recover.

"State basketball was a good time for us and we had to focus on moving on and trying as hard as we could in our next sport," Murley said.

Walker played football in the fall, but didn't play a winter sport. He spent his time working on form in the Packer Dome and now his hard work has paid off this spring.

"This was a fun year. We're always trying to win all of our events during meets. That was the goal," Walker said. "We've ran together for most of our life and it's cool to see that we're all going to state for the first time together."

Walsh will be competing in the high jump finals at 9 a.m. Friday. The prelims for Class AA will take place that day and the Class AA finals are set for 9 a.m. Saturday. Both events are in St. Michael/Albertville.

Although she is very driven on her own, Walsh credited the success of Walker and Terry for helping her stay motivated this spring.

"No one ever wants to lose, especially to the boys. I just try to keep up with the boys and we try to help each other get better," Walsh said.

# Raising the bar: BP sophomore is aiming for a state track title

By Rocky Hulne  
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**BLOOMING PRAIRIE** — Blooming Prairie sophomore Annaka Forsberg is ready to raise the bar.

After getting her feet wet with a fourth place finish in the high jump in last year's state meet, Forsberg has her sights set on much bigger things as she aims for this year's state meet, which takes place in St. Michael-Albertville Thursday.

After jumping a height of five-feet, three-inches in last year's state meet, Forsberg has jumped as high as 5-7 this year and she cleared 5-5 at the Section 1A meet.

"I want to jump 5-8 with a new PR and I'm hoping to get first, but we'll see," Forsberg said. "It's a very mental event. You can get in your head really easily and you have to get out of it if you want to get those higher heights. My dad is super serious about it. He taught me a lot about the mental side and how to convince myself that I can do it."

Forsberg is the only Awesome Blossom competing in the Class A track and field meet, which means she has spent her preparation time working alone with the coaches. It isn't the most ex-



Annaka Forsberg completes a jump in practice in Blooming Prairie Monday. Rocky Hulne/sports@austindailyherald.com

citing way to practice, but it can be effective.

"It makes it harder to be by myself," Forsberg said. "I do like doing it and there were times during the season when I was out here on my own. I get

a lot more reps in than I would during a regular practice."

Forsberg, who also plays volleyball for BP, will be competing in the high jump finals at St. Michael/Albertville at 4 p.m. Thursday.

# GMLOKS relay team is aiming for another big state finish

By Rocky Hulne  
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The GMLOKS 4 x 200-meter relay team has made a name for itself in the state of Minnesota, and the leader of that relay is hoping to write one last chapter in her final run on the big stage.

Kingsland senior Anika Reiland was the lead runner on that relay team in state as a seventh grader, but she anchored it over the past five years at state, with the last three appearances ending in a state title.

Besides Reiland, GMLOKS also returns Anna Oehlke and Chantle Reiland from last year's state championship team.

"We've had a new team every year, so it's the same amount of pressure we've had every year," Reiland said.

As Reiland closes the book on her stellar GMLOKS career, she'll be getting Southland teammate Breely Galle, an eighth grader, a look at the big stage. Galle has had a whirlwind year, but she's kept up with the top runners on the team throughout the spring.

See **GMLOKS**, Page 3B

## SCHEDULE

**Wednesday**  
No events scheduled

**Thursday**  
**Track and field:** Class A preliminaries at St. Michael-Albertville, 4 p.m.

**Friday**  
**Track and field:** Class AA preliminaries at St. Michael-Albertville at 9 a.m.; Class A finals at St. Michael-Albertville, 4 p.m.  
**Amateur baseball:** Janesville at Austin Greyhounds, 11 a.m.

**Saturday**  
**Track and field:** Class AA finals at St. Michael-Albertville, 9 a.m.

**Sunday**  
**Baseball:** Byron at Austin Post 1216, 11 a.m.; Plainview at Austin Greyhounds, 6 p.m.

## SCOREBOARD

### Major League Baseball

**Wednesday's Games**  
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 11:35 a.m.  
Toronto at Kansas City, 1:10 p.m.  
Seattle at Houston, 5:40 p.m.  
Arizona at Cincinnati, 5:40 p.m.  
Washington at Miami, 5:40 p.m.  
Chicago Cubs at Baltimore, 6:05 p.m.  
St. Louis at Tampa Bay, 6:10 p.m.  
Texas at Cleveland, 6:10 p.m.  
Oakland at Atlanta, 6:20 p.m.  
N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota, 6:40 p.m.  
L.A. Dodgers at Chicago White Sox, 7:10 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Milwaukee, 7:10 p.m.  
Boston at L.A. Angels, 8:38 p.m.  
N.Y. Mets at San Diego, 8:40 p.m.  
Colorado at San Francisco, 8:45 p.m.

### National Hockey League

**CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-7) (x-if necessary)**  
**Thursday**  
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, 8 p.m.

**Saturday**  
x-N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, TBA

**Tuesday**  
x-Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, TBA

### National Basketball Association

**NBA FINALS (Best-of-7) (x-if necessary)**  
**Wednesday, June 8**  
Golden State at Boston, 9 p.m.

**Friday, June 10**  
Golden State at Boston, 9 p.m.

**Monday, June 13**  
Boston at Golden State, 9 p.m.

**x-Thursday, June 16**  
Golden State at Boston, 9 p.m.

**x-Sunday, June 19**  
Boston at Golden State, 8 p.m.

## BRIEFS

### Youth hockey fundraiser this Monday at Austin Country Club

Austin Youth Hockey will be hosting its 18th annual golf tournament at Austin Country Club June 13.

The event is the largest fundraising effort that has been done to support AYH and it allowed the entire Mite program to allow first year players to play hockey for free.

The golf will begin at noon with a shotgun start. Attendees may register at [www.golfgenius.com/ggid/aydh2022/register](http://www.golfgenius.com/ggid/aydh2022/register).

For more information, contact Andy Bang, the head golf professional at ACC at [abang@austincountryclub.com](mailto:abang@austincountryclub.com).

### Ober, out: Twins put righty on IL from ravaged rotation

**MINNEAPOLIS** — The Minnesota Twins placed right-hander Bailey Ober on the 15-day injured list with a strained right groin on Monday, yet another health setback for their rotation.

The move was made retroactive to last Thursday. Ober became the fifth sidelined pitcher for the Twins among the eight who have started three or more games for them this season.

Sonny Gray, Chris Paddock and Josh Winder are on the injured list, and Joe Ryan is on the COVID-19 list. Two of their starting pitchers from last year, Kenta Maeda and Randy Dobnak, also remain out with long-term injuries. Paddock is done for the season.

Ober is 1-2 with a 4.01 ERA, seven walks and 29 strikeouts in 33 2/3 innings over seven starts this season. He previously missed 20 games from April 29-May 21 with a strained right groin.

The Twins were off on Monday before beginning a three-game series Tuesday against the major league-leading New York Yankees. They had yet to name a starter for Tuesday.

The Twins also reinstated right fielder Max Kepler and relief pitchers Trevor Megill, Emilio Pagan and Caleb Thielbar from the restricted list after they missed the weekend series in Toronto due to Canada's vaccination rules. Relief pitchers Jharel Cotton and Ian Hamilton and outfielder Mark Contreras were returned to Triple-A St. Paul.

—Associated Press



# Hayfield moves with a win from a return to state, Southland knocks off L-P

By Rocky Hulne  
sports@austindailyherald.com

The Hayfield baseball team wasn't dampened by a two-hour rain delay or unseasonably cold temperatures as they beat Lyle-Pacelli 7-0 in a Section 1A finals game in Dick Seltz Field Saturday.

Hayfield (21-2 overall) is now one win away from getting back to the state tournament as the defending Class A champs will play Southland in the title game at 5 p.m. Tuesday. The Vikings would have to lose twice on Tuesday to miss out on state.

Although eager to play, Hayfield was able to wait out the two-hour delay with the essentials - pancakes and naps.

"We went over to a friend's house before the game and we had some breakfast," said senior Isaac Watson. "Some guys even took a nap. But we were ready to go. Now we're one win from getting back to state again. That's a once in a lifetime thing for most players, but for us to have a chance two years in a row, very few people ever get to hear that."

After taking an early lead, the Vikings put the game out of reach by scoring four runs in the bottom of the fourth inning to go up 7-0. Karver Hedyt, Aidan Nelson, Ethan Pack and Zander Jacobson all had an RBI during the rally.

Watson had the biggest hit of the day when he drove in two runs with a two-out single to center field and gave the Vikings a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the third inning.

"I was just trying to make sure that I made contact," Watson. "You don't want to get caught looking at strike three in that situation."

L-P nearly had an answer when it had two runners on with no outs after Mac Nelson walked and Hunter VaDeer dropped a single in shallow centerfield to start the top of the fourth inning, but Easton Fritcher was able to get two strikeouts and force a line-out to the shortstop to end the threat.

Fritcher struck out nine, while allowing three base-runners in just four innings of work and Heydt pitched three scoreless innings in relief.

Heydt, who had pitched a shutout against L-P during the regular season, added a double and two RBIs to help the cause.

"It helped that I had pitched against them before. I knew their tendencies," Heydt said.

Fritcher, Heydt and Klocke wanted to pitch on Saturday, but Krekling leveraged his way into having all three of those pitchers available again on Tuesday. Klocke will have over a week's rest.

"All three of those guys were begging for the ball and I didn't tell them who was



Hayfield's Zander Jacobson applies the tag to Lyle-Pacelli's Landon Meyer during the Section 1A Tournament Saturday at Riverland Community College.

Eric Johnson/photodesk@austindailyherald.com

pitching until this morning," Krekling said. "The plan was to split it between Easton and Karver and it worked out well."

Hayfield scored in the opening frame when Nolan Klocke tripled and scored on a wild pitch.

Despite all of the winning in Hayfield in the past two years, the Vikings have been able to stay grounded.

"We all keep each other in check to make sure we're staying even keeled," Heydt said.

**Lyle-Pacelli** 000 000 0 - 0 3 2  
**Hayfield** 102 041 X - 8 10 1

**Hayfield pitching:** Easton Fritcher (W) 4 IP, 1 H, 2 BB, 0 R, 9 K; Karver Hedyt, 3 IP, 1 H, BB, 0 R, 2 K, HBP

**Hayfield hitting:** Fritcher, 0-for-2, 2 BBs, 2 SB, 2 R; Nolan Klocke, 1-for-4, triple, R; Karver Heydt, 2-for-3, double, 2 RBI, 2 R, SB, R; Isaac Watson, 2-for-4, R, 2 RBIs SB, SB; Aidan Nelson, 0-for-2, RBI; Ethan Pack, 1-for-2, RBI, BB, R; Zander Jacobson, 1-for-3, RBI; Eric Bermea, 1-for-3; Kobe Foster, 2-for-3, SB, R

**LP pitching:** Mac Nelson (L) 4 2/3 IP, 8 H, 3 BB, 7 R, 5 ER, 3 K; Jack Klingfus 1 1/3 IP, 2 H, 1 ER

**LP hitting:** Landon Meyer, 0-for-3; Mac Nelson, 0-for-2, BB; Hunter VaDeer, 1-for-3; Jake Truckenmiller, 0-for-3; Dane Schara, 0-for-2, HBP; Isaac Nelson, 0-for-3; Blake Klingfus, 0-for-3; Trey Anderson, 0-for-2, BB; Jack Klingfus, 1-for-3

## Southland 10, Lyle-Pacelli 4

The Southland baseball team kept its season alive when it beat Lyle-Pacelli 10-4 in a Section 1A elimination game in Seltz Field Saturday.

The Rebels (17-7 overall) will now take on Hayfield in the Section 1A title game in Seltz Field at 5 p.m. Tuesday. Southland will have to beat Hayfield twice to advance to the state tournament.

After the Athletics scored first, the second inning saw Southland turn the tables with its defense and its offense followed suit as the Rebels took a 7-1 lead.

L-P had the bases loaded with one out in the bottom of the second, but it was held scoreless after Southland catcher Jonas Wiste picked off a runner at third and Riley Jax struck out Mac Nelson. Wiste doubled in a run to tie the game in the second and he scored on a wild pitch to put Southland

up 2-1. The Rebels pushed that lead to 5-1 when Travis Kirtz knocked in a pair with a single to center field.

The Athletics (18-5 overall) grabbed a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Hunter VaDeer beat out an infield single to score Landon Meyer, who doubled to start the game.

Southland beat Rushford-Peterson 2-1 after it scored on a wild pitch in the top of the seventh inning of Saturday's first elimination game. Harrison Hanna scored the mound win for the Rebels.

**Lyle-Pacelli** 101 200 0 - 4 9 1  
**Southland** 073 000 X - 10 8 1

**LP pitching:** Hunter VaDeer (L) 2 2/3 IP, 3 H, 5 BB, 7 R, 5 ER, 3 K; Jack Klingfus, 3 1/3 IP, 5 H, 1 BB, 3 ER, 1 K

**LP hitting:** Landon Meyer, 3-for-3, double, 2 R, BB; Mac Nelson, 0-for-4; Hunter VaDeer, 3-or-4, triple, R, 2 RBIs; Jake Truckenmiller, 0-for-3, HBP; Dane Schara, 2-for-3, double, 2 RBIs, BB; Isaac Nelson, 0-for-4; Blake Klingfus, 0-for-2, BB, HBP; Trey Anderson, 1-for-3, R, BB; Jack Klingfus, 0-for-3, HBP

**Southland pitching:** Riley Jax (W) 5 2/3 IP, 9 H, 3 BB, 4 ER, 6 K, 2 HBP; Travis Kirtz, 1 IP, BB, 0 R, 2 K, HBP; Harrison Hanna, 1/3 IP, 0 R

**Southland hitting:** Gavin Nelsen, 1-for-3, BB, SB, 2 R; Harrison Hanna, 1-for-2, triple, 2 RBIs, 2 BBs, 2 R; Travis Kirtz, 1-for-4, 2 RBIs; Riley Jax, 0-for-4; Connor Edland, 2-for-3, R, BB; Jonas Wiste, 1-for-3, double, RBI, R, BB; Eli Wolff, 1-for-3; Tyson Stevens, 1-for-2, BB, R; Isaac Felten, 0-for-2, BB, 2 R; Noah Goergen, R

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Austin 14U Austin All Stars take third in New Ulm

The Austin Eagles 14AA team took third place in the New Ulm Tournament held May 27-29. Coaches are Darren Carter, Dave Anderson and Chad Pedersen. The team will hold a home tournament on June 11-12 at Riverland Community College. Photo provided

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