



Photos by Tim Middagh / The Globe

Worthington Trojans Lauren Nelson (17) and Hannah McNab practice a secret handshake between innings during a game with the visiting Fairmont Cardinals on Thursday afternoon.

## Trojans win 5 relay races in Windom

The Globe

WINDOM — The Worthington Trojans captured five relay events Thursday at a four-team track and field meet in Windom.

The WHS boys won three. Miat Htoo, Jacari Swinea, Josiah Banegas and Mak Lia teamed up to capture the 4x100 in 47.04. Lia, Swinea, Jose Reveles and Abagotte Opiew won the 4x200 in 1:35.45, and Ofbeka Morke, Mikele Walu, Mason Bobb and Filmon Wolday went 1:35.45 to win the 4x800.

Worthington girls Newyouman Gora, Bailey Newman, Addison Gerber and Brooklyn Scheitel-Taylor were first in the 4x100 with a 54.36 time. And Trojans Newyouman Gora, Gerber, Pham Gora and Newman won the 4x200 in 1:53.12.

Southwest Christian/Edgerton won both team championships. The SWC/E boys scored 133 points, followed closely by Redwood Valley with 132, Worthington 127 and Windom Area 122. The SWC/E girls were more convincing, accounting for 200.5 points while Windom Area had 116, Worthington 102 and Redwood Valley 91.5.

Southwest Christian/Edgerton's Micah Schaap won the 200-meter dash in 23.73 and the long jump in 21-2.5 and was second in the triple jump. Windom Area's Alex Altman also won two events, the shot put (43-3) and the discus (135-0).

For Worthington, Walu won the 800-meter race in 2:10.50, Marenono Opiew won the 300-meter hurdles in 44.0, and Abagotte Opiew won the triple jump with a 43-10 leap.

The WHS girls got a pair of individual victories from Scheitel-Taylor, who was first in the 200 meters (27.73) and the triple jump (33-1.75). Other Trojan individual winners were Newman in the 100 meters (13.75) and Kenadie Thiner in the pole vault (7-0).

Windom Area's Kaylee Walkin ran 2:31.42 to capture the 800-meter run, and she also won the 3,200-meter run in 12:03.25.

Southwest Christian/Edgerton's Reece Wassink was a double winner in the shot put (30-0.5) and discus (113-4).

The complete results are online at [athletic.net](http://athletic.net).

## GOOD LATE START

Trojans softball team clips Fairmont 1-0 as Grimmus whiffs 18

By Doug Wolter  
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Worthington

Near the end of a masterful pitching performance by Worthington High School senior Haley Grimmus, a sudden roadblock appeared Thursday at Centennial Fields. In the top of the sixth inning with the Trojans nursing a 1-0 lead, Fairmont's Kynlie Anderson rapped a one-out double over third base, then took third on a passed ball.

It was time for Grimmus to bear down.

She did, getting the next hitter on a swinging strike three. The next batter struck out on three pitches.

Worthington went on to win its fast-pitch softball season-opener 1-0. After waiting for nearly a month to finally get on the field, through all the rain and cold of a frustrating April, the win was sweet for the home team.

"The first six games got postponed, so we were ready for this one. We hit the ball, we played defense," said Grimmus, who pitched a full seven-inning game. She allowed only one hit, walked one, and struck out 18.

"I started pretty tight," Grimmus said. "But as the



Trojans pitcher Haley Grimmus (23) throws a pitch against Fairmont on Thursday in Worthington as catcher Maddie Peterson awaits the ball.

"I started pretty tight. But as the game wore on I got a little more loose. And when they did hit the ball, our defense made the plays. They did an amazing job."

HALEY GRIMMIUS,  
TROJANS PITCHER

game wore on I got a little more loose. And when they did hit the ball, our defense made the plays. They did an

amazing job."

Behind their ace pitcher, the Trojans went deep in the sectional tournament in 2021. They're hoping to go even deeper this year. But to do so, they'll probably need to hit the ball better than they did on Thursday.

Actually, they faced a tough pitcher in Fairmont's Nevaeh Rahm, who allowed just three Worthington hits. "I'll take it. It's the first time we really got to face

a live pitcher. I think we put the ball in play. We definitely need to hit a little bit better," said WHS head coach Rosalie Hayenga-Hostikka. "Some of it is just confidence, and for some of the girls it's their first time on varsity. I think it was a little bit of nerves, a little bit of confidence. We didn't strike out very much, and I was happy with that."

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## 7 Trojans sign to play soccer at West

By Doug Wolter  
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WORTHINGTON — In one fell swoop, the Minnesota West Community and Technical College men's soccer team improved considerably on Wednesday.

At the Worthington High School media center, seven Worthington High School players signed to play for the Bluejays next fall. Seated in a row at a long table, Trojans Ulises Barrera, Dalan Gonzalez, Edgar Carillo, Francisco Esteban, Cristian Tomas, Omar Fernandez and Juan Vela affixed their signatures to documents, agreeing to go as a group to support the college team.

For their high school head coach, Juan Flores, the event was exactly what he'd hoped for.

"When I took over (the WHS varsity program) four years ago, these are the guys I started with," he told the assembled audience. "So it's good to see them going to the next level."

West head soccer coach Jordan Balster was a Flores assis-

"Having these seven guys sign right now doubles our roster size for now. We're glad to have you, and hopefully you'll continue to grow."

JORDAN BALSTER, WEST HEAD  
SOCCER COACH

tant coach before heading the college program, and he was understandably pleased.

"Having these seven guys sign right now doubles our roster size for now. We're glad to have you, and hopefully you'll continue to grow," he told the smiling crew holding ink pens.

As it turns out, both Flores and Balster had been working together about finding a core group of players from Worthington who might want to continue competing together on the west side of town. In "the seven," West possesses outstanding athletes who helped the high school program become one of the best Class AA programs in the state. Trojan boys soccer players are widely known for their love of soccer, their outstanding



Tim Middagh / The Globe

Worthington Trojans soccer players signing to play for Minnesota West Community College this fall are (from left) Edgar Carillo, Francisco, Ulises Barrera, Juan Vela, Omar Fernandez, Cristian Tomas and Dalan Gonzalez.

skills, their speed and quickness, and for their exceptional endurance.

"They love soccer," Flores confirmed. "I think they've become a family, they get along with each other and I don't think they're going to have a hard time adjusting to college soccer — because they have the talent to do it."

"The more you recruit local, the better it looks. And with these kids staying in Worth-

ington, it will help the program."

The incoming Trojans, together, will fulfill several roles. Gonzalez is expected to play a center-back position. Esteban, Tomas and Barrera are midfield players. Fernandez handles right-back duties. Carillo and Vela can be outside middle or wing.

Balster says he expects to have at least eight players returning from the 2021 sea-

son, when the Bluejays posted a 3-7 record. More freshmen are also expected to arrive.

"Having increased quality in our starting players is really going to help. And having players who can come off the bench is going to be good, too," said Balster. "Their work rate is phenomenal, and just their endurance. And outside of technical stuff, they all played together. They all know how they all play."