

NEW MEDIA INC.

ALL-REGION RECAP

WWW.NEWMEDIA-WI.COM

Friday, November 18, 2022

Fall Sports



11-PLAYER FOOTBALL

Witt-Birn's Gauderman takes top honor

Bears earn team recognition

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The high school football season was another big one for area individuals and teams.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School's David Gauderman turned in the biggest impact on both sides of the field and was named the NEW Media Inc. Player of the Year at the 11-player level for his efforts.

"What helped me enjoy my success on the field was the brotherhood that we had as a team on and off the field," said Gauderman. "We are all pretty close and everyone wanted everybody to succeed."

Gauderman played running back and linebacker for the Chargers and put up some of the state's best numbers at each position.

He rushed for 1,539 yards and 16 touchdowns in his senior season. His 153.9 yards per game was right up there with some of the state's best.

Gauderman rushed for over 100 yards in seven of the team's 10 games. He had over 200 yards in three straight games to end the regular season.

While his chances in the passing game weren't nearly as numbered, Gauderman still made a difference. The senior hauled in 12 passes for 157 yards and three more scores.

"When the other team's game-plan was to shut me down, I relied on my teammates to get the job done," said Gauderman. "It wasn't a one-man show no matter what the stats show, I trusted me teammates and they trusted me and that's what allowed me to be successful."

Despite dominating on offense, Gauderman still found a way to excel on defense too.

He finished with 96 total tackles during the regular season, with a whopping 22 going for losses. He also was credited with 7½ sacks, two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery.

Gauderman had double digit tackle totals in seven of the nine regular season games, with eight and nine tackles in the other two. His best statistical game was

against Manawa, when he registered 15 total tackles, 7 tackles for losses and 4½ sacks.

"To be conditioned, I just worked hard at practice and did what I had to do to get the job done," said Gauderman of playing heavy snaps on offense and defense. "I didn't run like crazy, I just sucked it up and accepted I was going to be tired throughout the game."

Gauderman's favorite team moment this fall was a homecoming win over Weyauwega-Fremont. "There wasn't anybody without a smile on their face in the locker room after that game."

His favorite individual moment came recently when he committed to the University of Minnesota Duluth.

"The dreams I had as a little kid are coming true," said Gauderman. "And I couldn't be more thankful to anyone who was there to get me on the position I am today."

Honorable mentions

A number of other area individuals also enjoyed impressive seasons on the field.

Bonduel's Louis Hrabik accomplished the same feat as Gauderman, leading the Bears in rushing and total tackles. He had 911 rushing yards and 14 touchdowns to go along with 81 total tackles.

Shawano's Jerzy Bocker sparked the team's offense after taking over the quarterback position early in the season. He threw for 1,683 yards and 22 touchdowns, while rushing for 573 yards and five more scores. On defense, he had three picks — two of which he returned for scores — and one fumble recovery that he returned for a touchdown.

Ashton Henning was Bocker's favorite target after returning from an injury. He hauled in 32 passes for 755 yards and 11 scores across six games.

Oconto Falls' Mitchell Kallies was one of the premier linemen in the area, and he picked up all-conference first team spots at both positions. Cole Bozile led the Panthers defense with 83 total tackles, while picking off four passes and returning one for a score.

Maverick Cole was Pulaski's bell cow in the backfield, tallying 1,440 rushing yards and 21 scores on the



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's David Gauderman runs down the sideline during a nonconference game against Iola-Scandinavia on Aug. 26 in Wittenberg.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

year.

Like Kallies, Charlie Nowinsky enjoyed a big year as a lineman for Witt-Birn. He made the all-conference first team on both sides of the ball as well.

Team of the Year

Bonduel is the Team of the Year after a productive season. The team finished 7-4 overall and 5-2 in the Packerland Conference.

The team's lone nonconference loss was to Coleman, a highly-

ranked team. The Bears dropped back-to-back conference games to Southern Door (6-0) and Kewaunee (40-19), but ended the regular season winning four straight games. During that stretch, Bonduel out-scored opponents 137-6.

Bonduel was handed a No. 6 seed for the postseason and upset No. 3 Crivitz in level one play. The Bears were eliminated by St. Mary's Springs, another top ranked team in the state.

BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY

Alex Peterson named area's top runner

Gillett tabbed Team of the Year

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The area has proven to be one full of strong boys cross-country runners over the years. This fall was no exception.

Gillett Secondary School senior Alex Peterson was tabbed the NEW Media Inc. Boys Cross-Country Runner of the Year after a huge fall season that ended at the state meet.

"The way I came into this season was wanting to be able to focus on the moment and enjoy what is happening now," said Peterson. "Even though I am busy with lots of other extracurriculars, I made sure I left plenty of time to help my teammates and get in a great workout every day. Also, knowing where I'm going to college and running next year (UW-Oshkosh) took a lot of weight off of my shoulders."

Peterson came into the season considered one of the top runners in not only the area, but the entire state. He didn't disappoint.

The senior was locked in right from the start of the season, with a number of top finishes to his name.

He placed first at the Freedom Irish Waters Invite to help the boys team to a top finish. Peterson later placed second at a tough De Pere Invitational.

"Being ready to run well for cross-country is a year-round process, but most of the work is over the summer, and our middle school cross-country coach holds a summer running class which is very helpful," said Peterson. "But I feel that the most important factor is my mental toughness. There are a lot of instances during the summer when I feel like doing a little less or taking an extra day off. But I just tell myself that my competition is training hard, so I need to train harder. Plus, I love the summer weather, so that makes it really fun."

"Coming into this season I knew I had to work on my finish to each race. I started out the season not very confident in that, but after each race I analyzed the outcome and made changes for the next race.



Gillett's Alex Peterson runs during the Division 3 boys race at the 2022 WIAA State Cross-Country Championships on Oct. 29 at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids. MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

By the time state rolled around I was confident that I could finish the last 1.1 (miles) stronger. Also, I felt that my brother (Evan) and I did a nice job at keeping the youngsters enthusiastic about cross-country — I'm really confident that the Gillett program is in great hands."

Peterson earned another strong finish when he placed fifth at the Shawano Invitational — and first among Division 3 runners. He came

in third at the Red Raider Invitational.

The senior continued to place well in the postseason despite facing tougher competition and up against plenty of pressure.

Peterson placed first at the Marinette & Oconto Conference Meet while helping the team to a conference title. He also was first at the Division 3 Athens Sectional, helping the team place second and

punch a ticket to state.

"There are tons of favorite moments throughout the season, such as the Parkside trip and winning the Freedom meet, but my favorite is when we found out our whole team was going to state," said Peterson. "We only made it by one point, 70 to 71, so we breathed a sigh of relief and realized all of our pain, trials and triumphs had paid off in the biggest way."

His favorite individual moment this fall was the following week at the state meet. He placed eighth to cap a stellar high school career.

"My favorite moment was pretty much passing out after racing at state," said Peterson. "You may not think that would be fun, but it assured me that I closed out my high school cross-country career leaving absolutely nothing left to prove. I left my heart and soul on that course."

Honorable mentions

Several other boys individuals enjoyed big fall seasons as well.

Shawano's Will Chelberg and Ethan Onesti helped guide the team to state, placing 11th and 15th individually when at state, respectively.

Oconto Falls' Ben Adams was an individual state qualifier. He came in 78th at the state meet.

Bonduel's Ben O'Brien was also an individual state qualifier this fall. He placed 55th at state after pacing the Bears all season.

Alex Peterson's brother, Evan, was another big reason behind Gillett qualifying for state. He came in 32nd at the state meet and was often behind only his brother at many other meets.

Team of the Year

After winning a number of meets, a conference title and eventually making it to state, Gillett takes the Team of the Year honor as well.

The boys team placed eighth at state and only had the Peterson brothers as upperclassmen on the team.

Alex Peterson, Evan Peterson, Bradyn Wendorff, Scott Herroux, Chase Anderson, Nash Stange and Zander Davis formed the seven-runner state team.

VOLLEYBALL

Witt-Birn's Metropulos the top player

Chargers also Team of the Year

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

Area high school volleyball teams enjoyed memorable fall seasons, with a number of individuals turning in big performances.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School junior London Metropulos turned in a monster season and was named the NEW Media Inc. Player of the Year for her play.

"Having the support from my teammates and getting to experience this amazing season together," said Metropulos on what helped her have a big season.

Metropulos totaled 416 attack kills on the season, about 4 per set. Her kill percentage was 39.4.

She finished with 20-plus attack kills in five matches.

Metropulos was second on the team with 62 service aces and 217 points. The junior also racked up 50 total blocks and 247 digs.

"Playing club volleyball in the off-season definitely helped improve my overall game," said Metropulos.

Some of the junior's biggest matches came on the team's run to state.

She tallied a season-high 26 attack kills and 20 digs in a regional title win over Bonduel. Metropulos combined for 30 attack kills in two sectional matches.

"My favorite memory from this season is definitely the sectional championship because of all the support we got from our fans," said Metropulos. "It was a very surreal experience and not very many teams often get to experience it so I am very grateful that we could."

Through all the highs of the season, Metropulos' favorite individual mo-



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's London Metropulos prepares to serve during the team's Division 3 sectional semifinal against Weyauwega-Fremont on Oct. 27 in Auburndale.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

ment wasn't any kind of statistical achievement.

"My favorite individual accomplishment is when I hit the ball and got it stuck in a nail in the ceiling at the conference championship game in Weyauwega (on Oct. 11, when the Chargers won the Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division title)," said Metropulos.

Honorable mentions

The individual talent in the area

was off the charts this fall.

Shawano made a run at a Bay Conference title. Alix Heath served as the team's setter and also provided strong serving.

Bonduel was also led by a setter, Hailee Thompson. She racked up 712 assists, 302 digs, 61 aces and 149 attack kills on the year. Audrey Weier totaled 307 kills, while Macy Niles amassed 409 digs.

Gresham's Chloe Bohl and Tigerton's Skyler Hauser led their respec-

tive teams and shared the Player of the Year honor in the CWC-North. Bohl tallied 214 attack kills and 31 blocks, while Hauser had 256 attack kills, 42 block kills and 220 digs.

Emily Bruss, another setter, guided Pulaski this fall. She was the Co-Player of the Year in the Fox River Classic Conference after tallying 593 assists, 235 digs, 52 aces and 116 attack kills.

Oconto Falls had a really strong fall season, but had a number of players make a big impact. Amber Otto and Brailyn St. Louis tallied 394 and 318 attack kills, respectively, on the year, with Otto also among team leaders for serving and digs. Kyndra Staidl recorded 467 digs and 130 assists.

Lena's Natalie McNurlen and Surging's Christine Sleeter were stars in the Marinette & Oconto Conference and both made the first team. Sleeter helped the Eagles to a top seed in the playoffs, but it was McNurlen that guided the Wildcats to a regional title.

To get to state, teams need more than one great player. Witt-Birn had several.

Reese Rogowski capped the season with 367 attack kills and 325 digs. Lilly Betry had 400 assists, 255 service points and 77 aces, while Payton Foster had 440 assists.

Team of the Year

Witt-Birn was the Team of the Year after its incredible season.

The Chargers finished 28-9 overall and went 7-0 in the CWC-East to win the title.

The team earned a No. 1 seed for the postseason and defeated No. 9 Coleman and No. 4 Bonduel to win the regional title. Witt-Birn then downed No. 2 Weyauwega-Fremont and No. 1 Edgar to advance to state for the first time in school history.

Witt-Birn was topped by Howards Grove in a state semifinal match.

sports@newmedia-wi.com

FARM

HOME

COMMERCIAL

maplevalleymutual.com

CONGRATULATING ALL LOCAL
ATHLETES ON A JOB WELL DONE!

Maple Valley Mutual
Insurance Company

A.M. Best Rating A- (Excellent)
304 N. Rosera St., Lena



BEVERSDORF

garage

Full Service Automotive Repair
101 S Mission St. • Wittenberg, WI

WANTS TO *Congratulate*

WITTENBERG-BIRNAMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL & ALL AREA ATHLETES!

715-253-2601

*Congratulations
High School
Athletes!*



You're Pros
In Our Eyes!

GRESHAM
TOWNMART

1129 Main St., Gresham
715-787-3409
HOURS: Sun-Thurs 7am - 8pm
Fri-Sat 7am-9pm

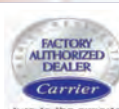
Gas • Groceries • Bakery • Deli • Fresh Meats • Liquor • Subs • Lottery • Fiesta Fried Chicken

CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT SEASON, TO ALL OUR AREA ATHLETES, TEAMS & COACHES!



KNOPE
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

1473 E. GREEN BAY ST.
SHAWANO
(715) 524-4215
WWW.KNOPEHVAC.COM



turn to the experts

INFINITY SERIES



11 YEARS
IN A ROW!



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL AREA ATHLETES, TEAMS & COACHES!

OCONTO FALLS
INSURANCE
CENTER

113 N. Main St.
Oconto Falls
920-846-3316
Here for You Since 1968



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE ATHLETES!





JAN KRAETSCH Owner/Broker

Cell: 715-581-1965

Home: 715-677-4288

E-mail: jankraetsch@gmail.com

www.JanCares.com



8-PLAYER FOOTBALL

Senior Marquardt tabbed top player

Lena/STAA earns team honor

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The area football talent didn't stop at the 11-player level, as there were several strong 8-player teams and individuals that took the field this fall.

Lena High School senior Sam Marquardt starred for the Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas Academy co-op and was rewarded by being named the NEW Media Inc. Player of the Year at the 8-player level.

"What made this season most enjoyable would have to be the coaches and the teammates," said Marquardt. "Being at a small school, the coaches know you beyond the football field which allows you to interact with them and joke around but still be focused and determined to win."

Marquardt was the co-op's quarterback, but he was more like a running back with the way the team's offense was run.

He finished the season with 1,563 rushing yards and 25 touchdowns, averaging 7 yards a carry. He finished with 100-plus yards in eight of the team's 10 games, with two games over 225 yards and two more above 190 yards. He rushed for a score in every game and was only held to one score three times.

As a passer, he had 491 yards and nine touchdowns.

Defensively, he played defensive back and finished with 54 total tackles. He also had two sacks, two fumble recoveries and two interceptions, returning one for a score.

As if that wasn't enough, Marquardt also returned kicks for the co-op. He returned a couple for scores this fall.

"Playing both ways and on special



Lena/STAA's Sam Marquardt carries the ball during a playoff game against Wabeno/Laona on Oct. 28 in Wabeno.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

teams takes a lot out of me," said Marquardt. "In order to make it through the game and not be exhausted our coaches put us through a lot of conditioning before our first game and continued this routine throughout the season."

Oddly enough, Marquardt said his team's gameplan was to tire teams out. The co-op accomplished that most weeks on its way to a big season.

"The short 5-10 yard runs in the first quarter slowly got longer as the game progressed," said Marquardt. "Usually towards the second quarter to the rest of the game our runs would turn into long touchdowns."

Lena/STAA opened the year by shutting out its first four opponents.

It was during that run that Marquardt enjoyed his favorite team accomplishment.

"My favorite team moment would have to be when we played Sevastopol and they were first-and-goal on the 1-yard line. Our defense played together and ended up forcing them to lose 6 yards and no points. This was our third game in a row not allowing a point," said Marquardt.

His favorite individual accomplishment was reaching 1,000 rushing yards, a feat he missed by only 40 yards as a junior.

Honorable mentions

There was no shortage of talented area players at the 8-player level.

Lena/STAA's Josh Kristof racked

up 124 total tackles during the season, with 22 going for losses. He also forced a couple fumbles.

Anthony Seefeldt was recognized as the co-op's top offensive lineman, helping pave lanes for Marquardt and others.

Suring's Trent VanDenElzen led his team with 84 total tackles this fall. Eleven went for losses, and he also had an interception, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery. Offensively, he rushed for four touchdowns.

Gillett's offense was powered by the passing duo of Jesse DeBauch to Brandon DeBauch. Jesse DeBauch threw for 1,881 yards and 17 scores, with Brandon DeBauch tallying 1,030 receiving yards and 10 touchdowns. Jesse DeBauch added in two rushing scores, while Brandon DeBauch had 58 total tackles on defense.

Bowler/Gresham's offense was powered by Emmitt Kietlinski. He threw for 1,379 yards and 10 scores while rushing for additional 496 yards and three touchdowns. Kietlinski also had three interceptions on defense.

Marion/Tigerton's top player was Asher Michaelis. He earned all-conference first team nods as an offensive and defensive lineman. Michaelis led the co-op with 52 total tackles, with 14 going for losses.

Team of the Year

Lena/STAA earned the Team of the Year honor after an 8-2 fall season. The co-op went 6-1 in Peninsula Conference play to take second.

The Titans avenged their lone conference and regular season loss against Gibraltar by upsetting the Vikings in the first round of postseason play.

Lena/STAA earned 12 all-conference honors and had Marquardt (offense) and Kristof (defense) take home the Players of the Year awards.

sports@newmedia-wi.com



BPM Inc

A Specialty Paper Mill

PESHTIGO • OCONTO FALLS

**Congratulations
To All Of The Athletes!!**

BPM PAPER.COM • 715-582-4551

SWIM AND DIVE

Pulaski's Schmidt tabbed top athlete this fall

Witt-Birn the Team of the Year

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The fall season proved to be a good one to area girls swimmers and divers, with several getting to state to cap the season this past weekend.

There were high expectations on Pulaski High School senior Taya Schmidt coming into the season as a two-time state qualifier, and she backed it up with another strong season and state appearance. For her efforts, Schmidt was named the NEW Media Inc. Girls Swimmer and Diver of the Year.

"Some things that helped me enjoy this season were having good teammates," said Schmidt. "I feel that we had a good time when we were all together and knew how to make it a fun setting for everyone."

Before qualifying for state, Schmidt showed off her talents at the Fox River Classic Girls Swim and Dive Championships.

She placed first as a diver, helping her earn the Diver of the Year honor from the conference.

"Something that helped me improve and stay sharp as a diver was the push from my teammates and coach," said Schmidt. "I know they were always pushing me to try harder dives during practice which helped me gain confidence in all my dives. I think because we hadn't had as many dive meets as we did swim it pushed me to want to do my best because there wasn't as many opportunities."

Schmidt also placed fourth at the conference meet in the 50-yard freestyle. She was on the fourth-place finishing 200 freestyle and sixth-place finishing 200 medley relay teams.

Earlier in the season, she enjoyed her favorite individual moment after breaking the 6 dive school record score.

Her mark of 269.15 topped the old mark of 251.6.

"This was a highlight of my season because it has been my goal of mine since starting dive to get it. I felt that I've worked hard to get it and I've had to overcome many mental challenges which I'm proud



Pulaski's Taya Schmidt swims the 100-yard backstroke during the team's conference dual against Bay Port on Oct. 11 in Pulaski. MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

of," said Schmidt.

Her favorite team moment wasn't one that happened in or near a pool.

"My favorite team moment this year was eating at Pizza Ranch after a meet," she said. "I think everyone had tons of fun just being around each other and lots of jokes were made and it overall was a high point in the season."

At sectionals, she placed first in the diving event, winning by more than 35 points. That qualified her for state for the third time in her high school career.

She placed fifth at the state meet, which was her top state finish in three tries.

Honorable mentions

Wittenberg-Biramwood had another memorable season despite limited roster numbers, sending three individuals and a relay team to state.

Reese Dickman made it to state in the 50 freestyle and 100 breaststroke, tying for 10th and taking 12th outright, respectively. She was second in the Bay Conference in the 50 freestyle.

Faith Resch also advanced to state in the 50 freestyle, taking ninth. Earlier in the season, she placed second at the conference meet in the 100 freestyle. Annika Resch capped her career racing at state in the 200 IM, finishing 16th.

Dickman, Faith Resch and Annika Resch were joined by Olivia Bessette on a 200 freestyle relay team that made it to state and claimed 10th place.

Team of the Year

Witt-Birn earns the Team of the Year honor after its strong finish to the season.

The Chargers claimed fourth place at the Bay Conference Championships behind three second-place finishes.

The team then placed seventh at sectionals while having its three individuals and a relay team punch tickets to state.

Witt-Birn scored 35½ points at state to finish in 20th place in Division 2.

sports@newmedia-wi.com

WITTENBERG
Sentry
FOODS

Congratulations
To our Local Athletes On A Great Season!

Open 7 Days a Week
110 S. Mission St., Wittenberg, WI
715-253-2161
Wittenberg's Only Locally Owned Supermarket!
Check us out on-line at
www.wittenbergsentry.com

GIRLS GOLF

Hawks' Eggert the top area golfer again

Shawano also picks up team honor this fall

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The high school girls golf season was a special one, with many great area individual golfers and some teams that performed well also.

Shawano Community High School sophomore Sophia Eggert was the area's most consistent player and was named the NEW Media Inc. Girls Golfer of the Year. Eggert becomes the first two-time recipient of an All-Region Review Player of the Year honor in the same sport.

"What helped me get through and enjoy this season was the positivity around me from my team, coaches and family," said Eggert. "They were always there to support me and cheer me on when I succeeded."

While Eggert wasn't able to replicate the Bay Conference Golfer of the Year honor she got as a freshman during her sophomore season, she still led the Hawks all season.

Early in the season, Eggert led Shawano at the Thunder Invite with a round of 88. She posted nine-hole rounds of 39, 40 and 42 to guide the team at the first three conference stops.

"After my big freshman year, between then and my sophomore school season I practiced all winter with my dad, going to indoor golf practices — then during the spring and summer I played in junior events to get me ready for the season and playing against great competition," said Eggert.

The sophomore was the top individual golfer at the fourth conference stop with a round of 44. Eggert was then second overall again with rounds of 42 and 44 when Shawano won two more conference tour stops.

Eggert carded an 18-hole round of 84 at the final conference tour spot, placing second on the team, to help the Hawks win a conference title. She placed second overall in the conference for the season.

"My favorite team moment from



Shawano's Sophia Eggert takes a shot during the Bay Port Regional on Sept. 28 at Brown County Golf Course in Hobart.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

this fall was jumping in the pond after winning conference," said Eggert.

Her favorite individual moment came during regionals, when she

tied for fourth as an individual to help the team qualify for sectionals as a group. Eggert fired a round of 84 that day.

The sophomore turned in a

round of 91 at sectionals to cap the season.

"This fall I think I excelled the most in consistency, my average scoring overall improved greatly compared to last year," said Eggert.

Honorable mentions

Despite only having a few area girls golf teams, the individual talent this fall was certainly not lacking.

Kloeigh Seidl and Kate Pytleski led Oconto Falls this season and helped the team make it to sectionals. Seidl was an all-conference first teamer, while Pytleski was the top individual on the second team.

Shawano's Teghan Kristof was another big reason why the team made it to sectionals. She finished third in the Bay Conference as an individual.

Braylyn Babino also had a big season for the Hawks. She made the all-conference second team and then turned in some of the team's top scores during the postseason.

Bonduel's Sarah Garside led her team this fall and made the all-conference second team. She then helped the team qualify for sectionals, again leading the team at the regional and sectional meets.

Vivien Ninham and Summer Jaeger were the top two Pulaski golfers this fall, each landing on the all-conference second team. They also helped the team to sectionals and turned in their team's best scores at the final meet.

Team of the Year

Each area team has an argument for being the top team, but Shawano takes the honor after winning its conference title.

The team placed either first or second during conference play and also had some strong finishes in some bigger invitationals.

Shawano came into the final conference tour stop in second, but wasn't fazed by the pressure and edged Xavier to steal the team title away.

The Hawks then placed third at the Bay Port Regional to qualify for sectionals as a team. Eggert, Kristof, Babino, Riley Dreier and Alli Johnson formed Shawano's lineup.

GIRLS TENNIS

Pulaski's Diefenthaler, Krause named top players

Shawano the Team of the Year

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The area has just two girls tennis teams that compete in the fall season, but there was still some big accomplishments achieved by individuals and teams.

The Pulaski duo of Madeline Diefenthaler and Ruth Krause were tabbed the NEW Media Inc. Players of the Year after qualifying for state.

"For me, I think what helped us with the season we had on the courts most was the support from our team," said Diefenthaler, a senior. "We received constant encouragement from all of our teammates, and they were always there to cheer us for us or help brighten our moods"

"I think starting in August before school started really pulled us together. I also think we went into the season with an attitude of, let's see what we can do," said Krause, a freshman. "I hadn't played before, so I felt like I was following Maddy's lead. All of that helped me enjoy those big moments."

The senior, freshman pairing isn't one you often see at the high school level, but the Pulaski pair found a way to make things work pretty much right away.

The duo said they got to know each other at the team's captain's practices, but also through drumline. A week at band camp helped the two bond before ever getting paired together.

Krause credited coaches Aaron Spurduto and Jeffrey Gosse for pairing them up for doubles play, adding that she secretly had a goal to make it to state for Diefenthaler in her final season.

Diefenthaler and Krause started the season hot, racking up wins in a hurry.

They went 3-1 at the Appleton West Tournament on Aug. 15-16. The Red Raider No. 1 doubles team then finished 3-0 during a quad in Shawano on Aug. 18.

Despite the team going 1-2 at an invitational in Wausau on Aug. 22, Diefenthaler and Krause went 3-0 in their matches.

"At the start, Ruth and I were already strong players on our own. Being a team together only made us stronger," said Diefenthaler. "We definitely weren't expecting some of



Pulaski's Ruth Krause prepares to hit a backhanded shot during a doubles match against Shawano on Aug. 18 in Shawano.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA



Pulaski's Madeline Diefenthaler serves the ball during a doubles match against Shawano on Aug. 18 in Shawano.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

our wins that we had in the beginning of the season. We went into some matches almost terrified because of the difference in strength and speed, but came out with a win because of our consistency.

"As the season went on, I think our wins helped our confidence and helped us stay strong in each match. State was always the goal, but I never could've imagined that my tennis dream would come true."

When the team started playing some Fox River Classic Conference matches, the wins kept coming.

The Pulaski pair won matches

against Sheboygan North on Aug. 30 and got the team's lone win against Bay Port on Sept. 1.

After a couple of tough losses, Diefenthaler and Krause settled back into a groove. It started with a 6-1, 6-1 win against Green Bay Preble on Sept. 20 and continued with a 6-0, 6-0 sweep against Sheboygan South.

"I think the ingredient in all of our matches was just playing tough, even in our losses," said Krause. "We tried to make each point count. We lost some matches against big opponents but we lost in tiebreakers by only a couple of points. That toughness in

wins and losses really helped us."

The duo kept their season alive with a 6-1, 6-2 win at subsectionals. The pair then thought their season was over after a hard-fought loss at sectionals, but got another chance to play after making state as special qualifiers.

Diefenthaler and Krause played one of the top No. 1 doubles team at state, and put up a good fight despite a 6-2, 6-0 loss.

"Individually making it to state, as a freshman, was huge — something I will never forget," said Krause on her favorite individual moment from the season. "Personally, there were a few aces throughout the season I remember. Also, at state there were a few returns I had for winners that I am really proud of. The score didn't always reflect it, but I think of those big shots for winners and remember that we played hard and had fun."

Diefenthaler relished the opportunity to play at state as well, but her favorite moment was one her teammates gave her after the season wrapped up.

"My favorite individual moment or accomplishment was receiving the MVP award from my team at our awards ceremony," said Diefenthaler. "It truly meant a lot to be seen that way by my teammates. I had so much fun with them this season and I'm truly going to miss them all."

Honorable mentions

Shawano had plenty of success in singles play this fall, with three players earning double-digit wins.

Jenna Ainsworth played No. 1 singles and won 13 times. She ended her season at sectionals after picking up a win at subsectionals.

Adison Moesch played No. 2 singles and earned 14 wins. She also picked up a win at the team's subsectional.

Ireland Setterman, who played No. 4 singles, won 15 times in her freshman season for the Hawks. She won once at the subsectional.

Team of the Year

Shawano picks up the Team of the Year honor after its successful fall season.

The Hawks placed fourth in the Bay Conference after going 4-3 in those matches.

Shawano went 8-7 during the non-conference portion of the season. The team finished 5-1 at the Battle on the Fox to kick off its season.

GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY

Chargers' Salvesen the top runner in 1st season

Bonduel claims team honor

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

The area was no stranger to strong girls cross-country runners, but it was a freshman who stole the show this fall.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School's Rory Salvesen was named the NEW Media Inc. Girls Runner of the Year after a standout freshman season.

"I was able to enjoy my freshman season because I knew that no matter what happened, or how well I did in a race, as long as I gave it everything I had, I was proud of myself," said Salvesen.

She was a highly-regarded runner coming into high school and immediately started dominating. In her first high school race, she placed first at the Pittsville Invite.

The top finish was a sign of things to come, as Salvesen led the Chargers all season and instantly became one of the area's best runners.

"Before the season began, I spent the summer running and training so when the season started I was ready to push with teammates," said Salvesen. "I had an excellent team constantly working with me and a set of coaches that supported me. My family also had a big part of encouraging me this season."

Salvesen went on to earn first-place finishes at the Marathon Invitational on Sept. 1, Eagle Invitational on Sept. 20 and Weyauwega-Fremont Warhawk Invitational on Oct. 6. When she wasn't winning a race, she was usually in second place.

"I think I excelled this season at knowing how to run my race and trust myself to give it all that I have on the course and in practice," said Salvesen.

While some underclassmen excel during the season, sometimes the production drops off during postseason action. That wasn't the case for Salvesen.

She placed second at the Central Wisconsin Conference Meet on Oct. 17. Salvesen then placed third at the Athens Sectional on Oct. 21 to punch a ticket to state.

The freshman capped her season with a 24th-place finish at state on



Wittenberg-Birnamwood freshman Rory Salvesen nears the finish line of the state cross-country race on Oct. 29 at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

Oct. 29, which made her the fourth-best placing freshman in the entire Division 3 girls field of runners.

"My favorite individual moment was crossing the finish line at the

WIAA State Cross-Country Meet," said Salvesen. "The whole meet was an amazing experience and a huge accomplishment I had been working towards all season. It didn't

matter what part of the course you were on at that meet, someone was always there pushing you and cheering for you. Crossing the finish line, the amount of people that were there to help and support was insane."

Salvesen didn't have a favorite team memory from her opening season, instead saying, "I enjoyed every moment that I got to spend with my team. However, one of my favorite things about cross-country is the fun group of athletes and the set of fans that create a family atmosphere. Everyone everywhere is cheering for you; it doesn't matter what place you come in."

Moments after the state meet wrapped up, Salvesen was already looking forward to what the future might bring. If her freshman year is any indication of things to come, that future is bright for the Chargers runner.

Honorable mentions

As stated before, the area was full of strong girls runners. That was especially apparent by all the individuals who made it to state.

Pulaski's Angela Opolka capped her high school career by running at state, where she placed 88th.

The Shawano duo of Lily Guenther and Bailey Hendricks ran alongside each other all season and helped the Hawks get to state as a team. Guenther took 20th at state, with Hendricks in 26th.

Senior Carleigh Kaczmarek capped a memorable career by representing Gillett at state, placing 43rd. She also won the Marinette & Oconto Conference Meet.

Team of the Year

Bonduel earned the Team of the Year honor after another strong season.

The Bears didn't have one dominant runner, instead having multiple girls lead the way during the season.

Bonduel placed first at the CWC Meet, coming in 25 points ahead of any other team. The Bears also took first at the Athens Sectional.

Ashlyn Kurey, Mariah Wondra, Teagan Engel, Kendra Troxel, Joselyn Bohm, Hailey Berg and Cierra Schnell made up the state-qualifying team.

BOYS SOCCER

Lipsey the top player after leading Pulaski defense

Red Raiders also team of year after making it to state

By **MORGAN RODE**
Sports Editor

High school sports teams usually need several talented players to qualify for state. Things were no different for the Pulaski boys soccer team, which ended its strong fall season at state.

Senior Austin Lipsey was a stalwart on the Red Raiders' tenacious defense, and he was tabbed the NEW Media Inc. Player of the Year for his play.

"We had 16 senior soccer players this year and we came off a successful season last year. This set the tone for our season. We knew what we wanted to accomplish this year from the start," said Lipsey on what helped him enjoy such a strong season.

"In Pulaski there is a long-standing tradition of team dinners before home games — player's families volunteer to host these dinners. It is a relaxing time for us to eat, bond, and prepare for our games. Due to our success this season, we had practices that were really fun, especially after our wins. Our coach (Jeff Schneider) believes we need to work hard, but he allows us to celebrate at practice."

Of course, being a defender meant that Lipsey didn't rack up the goals and assists that usually draw the headlines, finishing with two goals and two assists. Instead, he anchored the team's defense.

Pulaski outscored teams 99-32 on the season. The Red Raiders shut out nine opponents, including a pair of 1-0 games — one of which was against Tomah in a sectional final to help the team qualify for state.

"My job as captain was to make sure we were all ready to take the field — I also needed to assist not only our goalie but the entire defense. When I attacked the ball, I knew that my teammates were backing me up. They knew too that I had their back when they went



Pulaski's Austin Lipsey looks on after kicking the ball during a Division 2 state semifinal match against Whitefish Bay on Nov. 3 at KOHLER Engines Stadium at Uihlein Soccer Park in Milwaukee.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

forward to stop the ball. It's my responsibility to set the right tone for our defense and come out as strong as possible every night," said Lipsey on his responsibilities were on match nights.

"I have always loved playing defense ever since my first club team. The main way we held teams to low goals was using each other as much as possible. Individually, I use my strength and speed to stop attacks and also have been really good at hitting headers on defense and during corner kicks."

Coach Schneider raved of

Lipsey's play and leadership, and noted he played in every game despite dealing with a high ankle sprain and shin splints.

"Without Austin's strong presence in the center of our back line, there's no way we play the kind of confident defense we did this year, especially in big games," said Schneider.

"The effect Austin had on our team goes way beyond statistics. He had the complete respect of all his teammates and always showed great sportsmanship toward opponents and officials."

Lipsey's favorite moments from the season came in back-to-back matches.

His favorite team moment was "definitely winning the sectional final because we made it so far last season, but lost in the final and we won this year and we ended up being the second Pulaski soccer team to go to state. Winning that game was one of our main goals, and we accomplished that."

His favorite individual moment came in the sectional semifinal match.

"We had the biggest student section in my two years on varsity at that game, and I made a move and got past two people and I heard the loudest cheer I have ever heard," Lipsey said.

Honorable mentions

Pulaski had a number of individuals enjoy special seasons on the field on the way to state.

Ryan Drafz led the team with 21 goals and four assists while also battling some injuries. Chase Ambrosius assisted on 14 of the team's goals and added seven of his own. Goalie Mason Baker stopped 94 shots as the team's last line of defense.

Julian Perez and Drake Herm led Shawano offensively this fall, leading the team in goals and assists. Goalie Brandon Reed made over 100 saves on the season.

Team of the Year

Pulaski earns the Team of the Year nod after finishing 18-5-2 on the season and qualifying for state. The Red Raiders battled to a fourth-place finish in the Fox River Classic Conference.

Pulaski won its final three matches in the regular season and then kept things rolling to start the postseason.

The Red Raiders picked up a No. 1 seed in Division 2 before outscoring their two regional opponents 21-1.

Pulaski kept its season alive with a sectional semifinal win over West De Pere, winning 4-3 in a penalty kick shootout before edging Tomah 1-0 in the sectional final.

The Red Raiders were topped 4-2 by Whitefish Bay in a state semifinal match in Milwaukee.

AutoSelect
REPAIR • SERVICE • TIRES

You're good to go!

Shawano

1229 E. Green Bay Rd. | 715.524.8266 6205 Schofield Ave. | 715.355.4050

Weston

Also Located in Green Bay, Appleton, Neenah, and Stevens Point

www.AutoSelectOnline.com

**CONGRATULATIONS ATHLETES,
COACHES, AND TEAMS!**

Iverson's

**piggly
wiggly**



Pig Stop Fuel Center – Crystal Clean Car Wash

OCONTO FALLS

**SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL
HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS**



JW INDUSTRIES LLC.

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL ATHLETES,
COACHES, AND TEAMS!**

5662 Glendale Avenue | Green Bay, WI 54313-4440 P: 920-865-7307 | F: 920-865-7777



Congrats to All Athletes, Teams and Coaches!



Senn

HOMETOWN INSURANCE
AGENCY, INC.

SPECIALIZING IN: AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • FARM

237 N MAIN OCONTO FALLS, WI 54154

(920) 848-2341

WWW.SENNHOMETOWNINS.COM

**Congratulations
To All Of Our
Local Athletes!**



WALSH DENTAL GROUP

**657 N. Main St.,
Shawano**

715-524-2581

Mon-Thurs - 7am to 4:30pm