



## Go-Hawk girls soccer finishes 2023 with 2nd place trophy

Stromberg, Ott twins selected to All-Tournament team

BY NICK THOMPSON  
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**DES MOINES** - Championship Saturday is a day where dreams are realized.

It's also a day where hopes are dashed.

For the Waverly-Shell Rock girls soccer team, it was a day that they could take the 2-1 advantage against Dallas Center-Grimes in the rubber match of the past three state championship games, including Saturday's game.

The first 10 minutes of the game was a defensive battle with neither team able to get a shot on net.

By the time the water break came and went, it was still 0-0 after W-SR keeper, Katelyn Eggena, made some amazing saves in all manners to keep the score tied.

Reminiscent of the game a year prior, the Mustangs got on the board first off a rebound that just missed the

outstretched hands of Eggena to give DC-G the 1-0 lead with 18:30 left in the first half.

Over the following 10 minutes, the Go-Hawks were able to make some good runs on net, but the ball was never able to find string.

With five minutes till half, the ball scooted parallel to the Mustang goal line, but the equalizer was never able to cross that line and the game went into halftime 1-0.

Early in the second half, DC-G extended their lead with a chip shot at the top of the box that was mere inches away from Eggena's outstretched hands and the Mustangs led 2-0 with 35 minutes to play.

By the water break, the physicality turned up a notch, but the offensive chances for the Go-Hawks went the other way and they trailed 2-0 with just 20 minutes left in the season.

As the seconds wound off the scoreboard, teammates embraced, tears were shed and coaches hugged. The clock hit triple zeros to signal the end of the 2023 soc-

cer season with DC-G finishing as the 2A champions and W-SR falling 2-0.

"We knew that DC-G was going to be a great team," head coach Scott Schara said. "We played them earlier in the year and played them the last couple of years. Props to them, great team today, and they were the better team today. I'm just proud of our group. One of the most special groups that I've ever coached."

This was the fifth straight appearance for the Go-Hawks in the title game and they are building a dynasty that could reach the decade mark for longevity.

"I just told them that they needed to leave everything on the field," Schara said. "I can't be more proud of our program and to be a part of it. I told someone from the state that I'm just proud of our school, proud of who we are and when we show up, I think that we give it our best."

The senior class of Keiri Holmquist, Gabby Baumhover, Anna Stromberg, Lindsey Overmann and Alli

Seegers saw their freshman season cut short due to COVID-19 restrictions, but they made up for it with a career record of 55-5, three state title appearances and one state championship.

"They are a really special group," Schara said. "I'm glad that they got one championship. To get to three of these and play unbelievably great teams like that, I can't be more proud."

The senior class had 24 hours after the final horn against Pella on Friday to come to grips with Saturday being the final time that they would be wearing a Go-Hawk logo on their chest.

"I honestly don't think that it's hit me yet," Stromberg said. "I actually think it's hitting me right now during this interview hearing those words. I cannot be any more thankful for the past three years playing in a Go-Hawk jersey. I love everyone around me, the coaches, the support, the cheering section and everything that they've done to support us."

Stromberg, along with Anaka and Addie Ott, was

named to the 2A All-Tournament team comprised of the best players during the state tournament.

"I mean, it's really special and I'm glad that I worked for it," Stromberg said. "It means a lot and I'm thankful for the teammates next to me that helped me because I wouldn't be where I'm at without them."

Coach Schara reflected on what makes the 2023 W-SR girls soccer team special.

"They are so close," Schara said. "Even after a loss, they're hugging each other. To be honest, just how positive they all are."

Stromberg gave her thoughts on what makes the team special and what she will remember in the future.

"You remember the wins and losses, but I'll remember staying in the hotel with the team, all the car rides, bus rides, before practice messing around and cracking jokes. Everything else that comes with the game and the friendships that make it such a special sport."

Embroidered on the back of every t-shirt that the Go-

Hawks wore during warm-ups were the words, Embrace the Game. The final 20 minutes of the season really showed what that motto means.

"There's going to be ups and downs in this game," Schara said. "At the water break with twenty minutes left, we were down two-0 and I told them, 'Just go out and enjoy the game.' And I think that's what embrace the game means. Going out there and enjoying every moment that you can and I think the girls did that today."

**Notable season stats**

The Go-Hawks finished their season with an 18-2 record, the same as the 2022 season.

W-SR outscored their opponents 87-4 throughout the season and went 14 straight games to start the season without allowing a goal.

Only three games were decided by one goal throughout the year with two games ending by the 10-goal rule.

Stromberg led the team with 25 goals. She also led the team in assists with 21.



Anna Stromberg and Anaka and Addie Ott were all named to the All-Tournament team. Right: Sydney Bienemann battles for the ball



# ATHLETES

## OF THE WEEK

**Boys**  
**Ayden Hoffert, Waverly-Shell Rock**  
Ayden Hoffert is the starting center fielder for the Go-Hawk baseball team. This last week, Ayden had a great week at the plate. He was able to draw six walks throughout the week, including a 12-pitch at-bat against Waterloo West. Ayden was also able to hit four triples on Friday across the two games.

**Girls**  
**Waverly-Shell Rock girls soccer team**  
The Waverly-Shell Rock girls soccer team was the number one seed entering the state tournament. They played three strong games against tough opponents and advanced to the state finals for the fifth year in-a-row. In that game, they would go on to lose 2-0, but they played by their motto, Embrace the Game.




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# Stromberg's PK powers Go-Hawks to state title game

W-SR girls soccer advances to 5th straight final

**BY NICK THOMPSON**  
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**DES MOINES** - After starting Wednesday's game off slower than normal, Friday was full effort for Waverly-Shell Rock against Pella.

The first 10 minutes of the game were all Go-Hawks, but the shots W-SR was able to get, couldn't find the back of the net.

By the time that the mid-half water break happened, Pella started to control much of the possession. W-SR's stout defense stood strong and didn't allow a goal during those 10 minutes.

With just eight minutes to play in the first half, the Go-Hawk offense started to chip away at the Dutch and the frustration started to show for Pella and W-SR went into half tied 0-0.

Winning the second half has been key for the Go-Hawks all throughout their tournament run and they were looking to continue the trend for the next 40 minutes.

Just eight minutes into the second half, Anaka Ott was fouled in the box and Anna Stromberg blasted the ball in the back of the net for the 1-0 lead.

"I just finished it. It was



Anna Stromberg and Anaka Ott embrace after Stromberg's PK goal.

an easy shot. I stayed composed," Stromberg said.

By the second half water break, the Go-Hawk offense was firing on all cylinders, including multiple rockets that drilled the post, but none were able to find the back of the net.

The Go-Hawk defense stood strong in the final 20 minutes of the game and they came away with the thrilling 1-0 victory to advance to their fifth straight title game.

"It feels awesome," head coach Scott Schara said. "We took it day-by-day and we

knew that it was going to be tough. It's just unbelievable for me to be back in the state championship game."

Throughout the game, Pella was able to scare the Go-Hawk defense multiple times, but they were all stopped by junior goalkeeper, Katelyn Eggena.

"I think that I just have a lot of experience," Eggena said. "That really helped me today because I knew that I've been in this situation multiple times so that really helped me out in this game today."

Eggena is just one more

win away from helping the Go-Hawks to their second state championship in the last three years and the process has been her favorite.

"I'm obviously really excited," Eggena said. "Any time that you make it to state it's exciting, but when you're one win away from the state championship, it's even more exciting because you're that much closer to getting there."

Addie Ott has played outstanding defense throughout the first two rounds of the state tournament that has helped the Go-Hawks



Gabby Baumhover kicks a corner kick in the second half.

buckle down when needed.

"It's just a great feeling," Ott said. "I have great people behind me and if I slip up, they are always behind me to get my back."

The Dutch sport one of the top forwards in the state in Abby Warner and if she was going to beat the Go-Hawk defense, she would have to beat the entire team.

"We just threw layers and layers and layers at her," Schara said. "Our defense did an unbelievable job at communicating where she was at. If she was going to beat us, she was going to

beat all of us."

When the Go-Hawks marked up on the Dutch, Ott was one of the main defenders on Warner and the experience was a great learning experience.

"She's such a good player," Ott said. "You've just got to keep her in front of you and don't stand flatfooted and that's really all that I had to do."

W-SR will face off against Dallas Center-Grimes in the finals for the third straight year and they will play at 3 p.m. on Saturday on Field 6.

# Go-Hawk baseball sweeps Cadets by combined 39-2

**BY NICK THOMPSON**  
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**WAVERLY** - Sometimes the ball seems like the size of a grapefruit.

For the Waverly-Shell Rock baseball team on Friday night, the ball might as well have been the size of a beach ball.

In game one, Dylan Stockdale and Ayden Hoffert got the Go-Hawks off on the right foot with back-to-back triples and Hoffert went on to score to give W-SR the 2-0 lead.

With just one out, a passed ball gave W-SR the 4-0 lead.

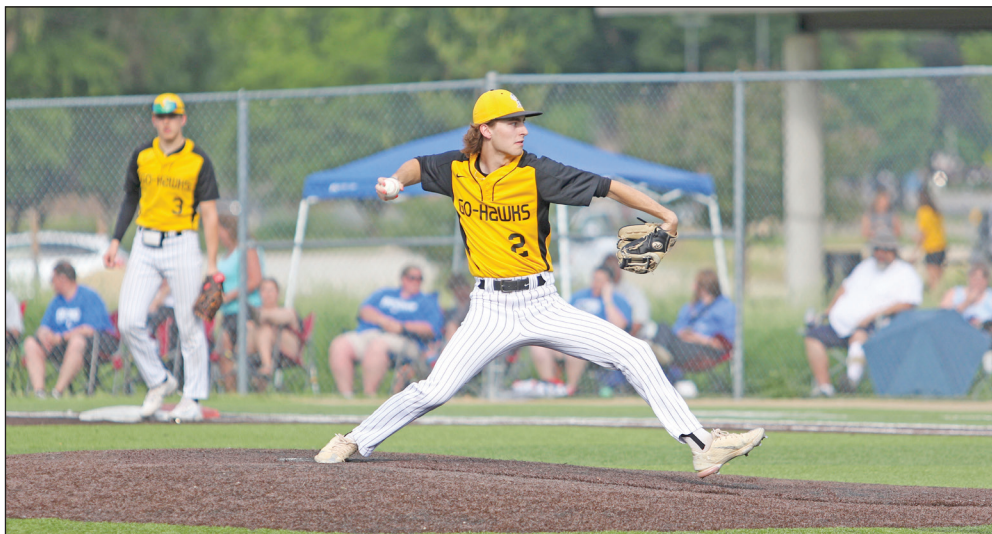
Ethan Chapin started the game on the hill and he helped his own cause with a two RBI double to give the Go-Hawks the 6-0 lead.

Another two RBI single gave W-SR the 10-0 lead and by the time the first inning ended, they led 12-0.

Abraham Wrage cleared the bases with a three RBI double to extend the lead to 16-0.

Nolan Foster also cleared the bases with a three RBI double to push the lead to 19-0.

Aidan Kelley decided to get in on the action with a beautiful hit down the line that scored two more runs to



Ethan Chapin got the win in game one against Crestwood.

give W-SR the 24-0 lead.

By the end of the inning, the Go-Hawks held a 25-0 lead and they went on to win by the same score.

"It's a situation where the guys are putting together some good at-bats," head coach BJ Hermesen said about the win. "At the same time, we get guys in the game that might not normally get in. Those guys that work hard in practice, it's a good opportunity to showcase what they can do."

**Game 1 line score**  
**Crestwood.....** 0 0 0 0 — 0  
**Waverly-Shell Rock....** 12

130 x — 25

In game two of the night, the Go-Hawks were able to get a 2-0 lead after Hoffert drove in Stockdale on an RBI triple and Hoffert scored on an RBI single from Gehrig Tibbetts.

Through the first two innings, Foster was able to strikeout five Cadets and he only allowed one hit during that time to keep the lead at 2-0 heading into the bottom of the second inning.

Stockdale drove in the courtesy runner on a sacrifice fly to center field to give W-SR the 4-0 lead. Just a couple of batters later, Grant

Parker grounded out in the infield, but it was a productive that pushed the lead to 8-0.

In the top of the third inning, Foster allowed his first run of the game, but he would limit the damage to just one, but the Go-Hawks went down in order to put the score at 8-1 in the top of the fourth inning.

After a couple of walks, a single for Crestwood scored a run to cut the lead to 8-2.

In the bottom of the fourth, Parker drove in two more runs with a double to left field and Lance Myers beat out the throw to first to

score another run.

Foster boosted his odds of securing the win with an RBI double over the left fielder's head to give W-SR the 13-2 lead.

Another run crossed the plate in the bottom of the inning and Tibbetts closed it out to give W-SR the 14-2 win.

The two strong conference wins come on the heels of a 10-inning thriller against Waterloo West on Thursday that the Go-Hawks lost 14-12.

"Anytime you can win games in the conference is important," Hermesen said. "We got two big ones next week at Decorah and at New Hampton. We are just telling the guys to focus on Tuesday because that's the next one."

W-SR has a unique advantage in that they play on one of the biggest fields in the area, Hertel Field at Wartburg College, and they also boast one of the fastest teams in the area with multiple state track and field athletes on the roster.

"A ball in the gap here, if the guy's got decent speed, is likely a triple," Hermesen said. "It's something that we preach quite a bit, getting out of the box quick. With

it being bigger dimensions, we've gotten pretty used to it by now."

Hoffert showed off his power/speed combination with four total triples in the two games. His hitting has grown throughout the season, and has reached new heights this last week.

"He had a great game against Waterloo West," Hermesen said. "In the five or six at-bats last night, he probably saw 40 pitches. I think one of them was 12 or 13 pitches. He has a really good eye at the plate and he's pretty locked in. He's putting good swings on those balls too."

**Game 2 Notable Stats**  
Ayden Hoffert: 2-3, 2 triples, 2 RBI, 2 runs

Grant Parker: 1-2, 3 RBI, 1 run, 1 stolen base  
Dylan Stockdale: 2-3, 2 RBI, 1 run, 1 stolen base  
Gehrig Tibbetts: 2-3, 2 RBI, 2 runs, 1 stolen base

**Pitching**  
Nolan Foster: 4 innings pitched, 8 strikeouts, 5 hits, 2 walks, 2 runs, 1 hit batter. Credited with the win.

Gehrig Tibbetts: 1 inning pitched, 1 strikeout, 2 walks  
**Crestwood.....** 0 0 1 1 0 — 2  
**Waverly-Shell Rock....** 2 6

# Wildcat baseball escapes with 7-6 win over Saints

Janesville baseball now 4-1 on the season

**BY NICK THOMPSON**  
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**JANESVILLE** - It was a closer ending than maybe it should've been.

Saint Ansgar was able to get a leadoff double and the runner later scored on an error to give the Saints the 1-0 early lead.

Tyler Hoodjer was able to force a fly out to end the threat and the Wildcats trailed 1-0 heading into the bottom of the first inning.

Keegan Eastman tied the ball game up at 1-1 after an RBI single up the middle to

score Peyton Trees. Eastman was later caught on the base paths and the second inning ended in a 1-1 tie.

In the bottom of the fourth, the Wildcats had a good chance, but runners were stranded on first and second and the game remained tied at 1-1.

The Janesville defense pulled through time and time again throughout the game on Thursday and during the top of the fourth, they got three good outs to sit the Saints down in order.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, Trees was able to steal his way around the bases aided by passed balls from Saint Ansgar to give Janesville the 2-1 lead.

With 'Cats on the corners, the Saints made a pitching change, but more passed

balls allowed Janesville to end the fifth with the 3-1 advantage.

Saint Ansgar was able to get runners on second and third in the sixth inning, but Hoodjer stood strong on the bump with a massive strikeout to stand the runners in scoring position.

With the bases loaded, Dawson Graham drilled a bases-clearing double to right field to extend the Wildcat lead to 6-1. A walk scored one more run, but Kole Haan lined-out to the shortstop and the runner at second was doubled-up and Janesville entered the seventh inning with a 7-1 lead.

Hoodjer's night was done after allowing runners to get on first and second. With two outs in the seventh, Gabe Meaney entered the game to

close out the win.

The Saints benefited from some errors from Janesville and they were able to score five runs with two outs, but a deep fly to center field with runners in scoring position ended the game with the Wildcats escaping with the 7-6 victory.

The win comes just one night after Janesville's first loss of the season to a tough Dunkerton squad.

"This feels good, I'm happy for the guys," head coach Ryan Destival said. "We played hard and it was a battle tested win. Coming off a tough loss last night, I thought we showed up tonight. Tyler Hoodjer had a great night on the hill. It just got interesting during that last out."

Outside of the final out

in the game, the Wildcats played strong defense when their bats were cold and as the saying goes, defense wins championships.

"To win a baseball game you have to play defense and have your offense clicking," Destival said. "Some days one's clicking while the other's not and we just need to depend on each other, keep working hard and hopefully getting the W."

While the professionals are mashing the ball out of the park at historic rates, small ball has infiltrated the high school game. Janesville has shown that they are willing to do that this season and on Thursday, they drew 10 walks and stole four bases.

"We're just mixing it [small ball] in there," Destival said.

"We've found out that that type of play is what beats the better teams. Come the district finals or the sub-state finals, we've seen that that's what the good teams are doing. We are just following suit."

**Notable Statlines**  
Dawson Graham: 2-3, 1 double, 3 RBI, 1 run, 1 walk  
Keegan Eastman: 1-2, 1 walk, 1 hit by pitch, 1 RBI, 2 runs, 2 stolen bases

**Pitching**  
Tyler Hoodjer: 6 2/3 innings pitched, 6 strikeouts, 4 hits, 3 earned runs, 2 batters hits. Credited with the win.

Gabe Meaney: 1/3 inning pitched, 2 hits, 1 hit batter  
**Saint Ansgar.....** 1 0 0 0 0 0 5 — 6  
**Janesville.....** 1 0 0 2 4 x — 7



# W-SR girls soccer advances to semis with 4-1 win over North Polk

**BY NICK THOMPSON**  
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**DES MOINES** - The first step for returning to the championship game for the fifth straight year started on Wednesday for the Go-Hawk girls soccer team.

It didn't take long for Waverly-Shell Rock to get things going after Mia Englin entered the game for the first time and she was able to find the back of the net on a rebound to give W-SR the 1-0 lead just 10 minutes into the game.

At the first water break in the game, North Polk was able to get some good runs down the field using their speed and long balls, but they weren't able to get anything in the back of the net.

As the first half progressed, W-SR was able to start finding their groove on offense and they maintained a 1-0 lead.

Off a free kick from Gabby Baumhover, Sydney Bienemann was able to get her head on the ball and it deflected to the back of the net to give the Go-Hawks the 2-0 lead heading into halftime.

Englin has shown that she is a quality varsity player throughout the season, not just in soccer, but also on the track.

"Mia is a heck of an athlete," head coach Scott Schara said. "She ran track really well all season as a freshman and she went to state in that. She's done everything that I've ever asked her to do and she's improving every single game."

In the second half, experience from the previous game helped the Go-Hawks on Wednesday win the second half.

"I told them that they had to win the second half," Schara said. "We did the same thing against Xavier when we were up 2-0. Don't worry about what happened in the first half, just worry about what's going to happen in the second half and I think that we accomplished that."

The Comets turned the physicality up a notch in the beginning of the second half, but Anna Stromberg was able to find some space for a shot and Anaka Ott got her foot on the rebound and she put it in for the 3-0 lead with 15 minutes gone in the second half.

With 20 minutes remaining in the game, North Polk was able to get two or three good strikes at the net, but the stout W-SR defense stood strong and they were able to keep the Comets scoreless for the time being.

Addie Juhl added her name to the hat of goal scorers for the Go-Hawks with just two minutes to play. She corralled the ball near the top of the box and was able to chip the ball into the top right corner of the net to extend the Go-Hawk lead to 4-0.

The Comets weren't going to end their season without a goal though as with just under a minute remaining, they were able to get a deep bar-down goal to cut the



**Addie Ott gets a header clear. She was named the player of the game for her stout defense.**

BY JENNIFER WALKER

lead to 4-1.

W-SR advanced to the semifinal round with a 4-1 win and they will be playing Pella on Friday at 12:30 p.m.

"They were a tough out," Schara said. "I think they dropped a couple of games later in the season and they fell out of the rankings. They were a tough team."

Embracing the Game is the Go-Hawks' motto for the season and it is important for the heart of the team and that showed on Wednesday.

"We played with a lot of heart today," Schara said. "I think we have all season and I told the girls to leave it out on the field with no regrets and have fun doing that. If we do that, we are going to be a tough out."

Slow starts have come and gone throughout the season for W-SR and they were there on Wednesday and North

Polk nearly took advantage of that in the second half.

"We need to start faster," Schara said. "North Polk came out and played well in the first five, 10 minutes before we scored and they did the same thing in the second half. Coming off that first five, 10 minutes we need to be ready to go."

Early in the season, the Go-Hawks faced off against the Dutch in a penalty kick thriller and both teams have improved since then.

"We've played them three times the last two seasons," Schara said. "Abby Warner is one of the best forwards in the state of Iowa. If we can contain her, I think we will be ok. They're a heck of a team. It's going to be a good challenge for us, but it's the semifinals of the state tournament, all the teams are good."



**Anaka Ott celebrates after her goal late in the second half.**

# Denver baseball pulls out 1st win of season over South Hardin

**BY NICK THOMPSON**  
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**DENVER** - Getting the first win is sometimes the toughest.

After starting the season 0-7, the Denver Cyclones weren't looking back, they were only looking at South Hardin.

"We're not going to look back," head coach Dustin Rewerts said. "We are only going to look forward. We all know what we are capable of, but we just haven't shown it yet."

Ryan Law got the start for the Cyclones and he cruised in the first inning, sitting down the Tigers in order and also making a tough snag on the mound.

The Cyclones were able to draw back-to-back two-out walks and Law helped himself out with a screaming double to the outfield that cleared the bases and gave the Cyclones the 2-0 lead.

It didn't take long for Denver to build on the lead as Jacob Steege got an RBI single to right field to give Denver the 3-0 lead and that's how the first inning ended.

In the bottom of the second, Lincoln Roethler drove the ball over the center fielder's head for an RBI double that extended the lead to 4-0. Law allowed the first hit

of the game in the top of the third, but he did well in stranding him on the base paths.

The bottom of the fourth inning saw Denver use small ball to load the bases and score two runs on two walks and two singles to give them the 6-0 lead at the end of the fourth.

The Tigers weren't going down quietly though as in the fifth inning, a deep drive to center field scored the runner from first base. They were also able to get two more runs and load the bases before Law's day was done on the bump.

Braxton Sauerbrei entered the game and he only allowed one to cross the plate and the Cyclones led 6-4 heading into the fifth inning.

In the bottom of the six inning, the Cyclones were able to answer with one of their own after Roethler got his second double of the game and he later scored on a wild pitch that got by the catcher and the Cyclones led 7-4 going into the final frame.

Sauerbrei loaded the bases in the top of the seventh and Tanner Nuss entered the game to get the save.

Nuss allowed two runs to score, but Chase McEwan had a nice throw to third to

catch the runner stealing and give Denver their first win of the season, 7-6.

"It feels good," Rewerts said. "I told them that it feels like we got the monkey off of our back. It's been a long, hard two weeks. We've been in some games and we couldn't close the deal. We had some leads that we let slip away late. We've played some tough teams. I think it's good to get the one off our back."

Denver is fielding one of, if not the youngest team in the state of Iowa. The starting nine from last night included six sophomores, one freshman, one senior and an eighth grader.

Winning close games like this allows for valuable experience, but it almost was a disaster after leading 6-0.

"That's one thing that we talk about even dating back to last year when a lot of these guys were freshman," Rewerts said. "We don't do a good job of bouncing back when the other team hits us in the mouth. We have, a lot of times, in the past, folded and let them run away with it. Tonight, to get out of the inning and to score one more to get the three-run lead back was good to see."

The week for the Cyclones

is a busy one with three straight games at home against New Hampton and Sumner-Fredericksburg. It will be a week that could turn out well for Denver.

"I think tonight helps," Rewerts said. "Hopefully we can take some of it into the next couple of days. We've got pitching lined up so we can go at some teams. We are going to try to build off it. Hopefully tonight's one of the first steps in moving forward. We take on a good New Hampton team tomorrow, so we will see what we can do then."

## Notable Statlines

Ryan Law: 2-2, 2 walks, 4 RBI, 1 double

Lincoln Roethler: 2-4, 2 doubles, 1 RBI, 1 run

Jacob Steege: 1-4, 1 double, 1 RBI

## Pitching

Ryan Law: 4 1/3 innings pitched, 3 strikeouts, 2 walks, 5 hits allowed, 4 earned runs. Credited with the win

Braxton Sauerbrei: 1 2/3 innings pitched, 2 strikeouts, 3 walks, 1 hit, 2 earned runs.

Tanner Nuss: 1 inning pitched, 1 strikeout, 2 hits.

South Hardin..... 0 0 0 0 4 0 2 — 6

Denver..... 3 1 0 2 0 1 x — 7

# Through the Lens: What a week

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This last week was a whirlwind from start to finish.

It all started on Sunday, May 28. I was excited about the extra day off and I was trying to figure out what me and my wife would be doing for it.

Then my dog got sick and all plans really went out the window. We went through Monday to see if his stomach would ease by itself, but that was not the case.

Tuesday comes and he hasn't kept any food down for the past 48 hours and we are worried. We took him to the vet to get some x-rays done and we learned that he had eaten something he wasn't supposed to and it was blocking his system.

Fast forward another 24 hours and his blockage still hasn't left his system. We took him back to the vet, which by the way he loved going to the vet which is odd, and he spent the day there. Surgery was now on the table and my wife and I were extremely worried about our first dog.

By that night, he was getting more energetic and he finally passed the blockage almost 72 hours later and he has been doing great ever since.

Then comes the next few days on the baseball diamond.

I was able to watch a couple of exciting games in Janesville and Denver, with both teams almost losing their large leads, but holding on for the win.

For the Wildcats, they were able to hold off Saint Ansgar in a thriller that saw the Saints battle back on their final out to lose by just one run.

On Wednesday, I was able to go out and watch the Cyclones in action for the first time this year. They are a very young team, but they hold a lot of talent. Against South Hardin, they were able to hold on for their first win of the season by holding on to their one run lead.

Oh yeah, there was also the state soccer tournament this last weekend in Des Moines. While I wasn't able to attend the match on Wednesday against North Polk in person, I was able to watch the live stream.

On Friday, I headed down to Des Moines and watched the Go-Hawks come away with a thrilling 1-0 victory over Pella on a penalty kick to advance to their fifth straight game.

After that game, I was able to book it back to Waverly to see the baseball team dismantle the Cadets.

In game one, it was over early with the team scoring 12 runs in the first and following that up with a 13-run second inning. It was truly an offensive clinic for the Go-Hawks.

Between games, I was able to see former head coach Casey Klunder be honored by the W-SR Baseball Club for all his dedication.

I wasn't here while Casey was head coach, but I was able to talk to him after the ceremony and the Wartburg baseball team is in good hands with him and the city of Waverly's baseball programs are in good hands for sure.

While the championship game for the soccer team didn't go the black and gold's way, they played soccer the way they knew how to: With a ton of heart.

Nearly 600 miles in two days was definitely worth it to cover that team. Congrats and good luck the rest of the way.

# W-SR alum Wurdinger inducted into IHSAA Basketball Hall of Fame

Starting out as an all-state player for Hall of Fame coach Bud Bergman at Waverly-Shell Rock, Craig Wurdinger entered coaching right out of college in 1988.

He arrived at Wahlert Catholic in Dubuque in 1994. He coached five Golden Eagles teams to the state tournament, going 170-60 and winning three conference title in 10 seasons.

Wurdinger then took over Davenport Central and guided the Blue Devils to the Class 4A final in 2008. His run at both eastern Iowa powers included 15 all-state players and earned him state coach of the year honors in 2008. He retired in 2021 with a 411-247 career record.

Wurdinger and his wife Judy have five children — Rebecca, Rachel, Haley, Melanie, Sam — and four grandchildren.



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**From left: Daughter Mel Jordan, mother Ramona Wurdinger, wife Judy Wurdinger, Craig Wurdinger and daughter Haleigh Wurdinger**