

## 8 is great: Senior Go-Hawks sign NLI to continue athletic careers

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Signing day is a day filled with friends, family and promise.

Eight Go-Hawk athletes found this out on Wednesday morning during their signing ceremony.

Paige Hendricks signed first and she will continue her volleyball career at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota.

"Initially, I had 30 colleges that I could choose from and they were my top pick," Hendricks said. "It was really nice when they were interested in me. Their science program is nice, their campus is beautiful and their volleyball program is decent so that's why I chose it."

Choosing to be a Gustavus was an easy decision for Hendricks and the family aspect of the team really helped their case.

"They are just really supportive," Hendricks said. "Initially, I felt the family aspect from them and that was really nice. The whole school is just supportive in general."

The first of four rugby players signed and it was Tyler Gast. Gast will be continuing his rugby and academic career at Iowa Central



Above left: Paige Hendricks signed to play volleyball at Gustavus Adolphus College. Above right: Tyler Gast signed with Iowa Central Community College to play rugby.

Community College. "They have a really good program," Gast said. "One of my coaches is going to coach there so I felt that it was a great opportunity for me."

Feeling like he was making a difference was a big plus for Gast and he felt like he could do that best at Iowa Central.

"The team is really solid," Gast said. "But they are still a team where I feel that I can make an impact. They are really competitive and I feel like they are going to be good really soon and I'm excited to see what I can do with them."

Mary Carolus was one of

three Go-Hawks that will be continuing their rugby career at the University of Northern Iowa.

"I chose UNI because it was close to home," Carolus said. "I really liked the coach and the program that they have there. They have a really good family aspect that I really loved."

Joining Carolus at UNI are Eva Heise and Maddy Oelmann. The prospect of playing with her old teammates was a plus for Carolus.

"When I first signed, Maddy was already signed," Carolus said. "Then Eva decided to join to which I think is amazing. That did have an

impact, but the biggest thing for me was that it was close to home and the family aspect of it."

Heise and Oelmann signed their NLI's after Carolus to also continue their rugby careers.

Jack Wilson will be staying in Waverly next season and will attend Wartburg College to play football.

"I think that it felt like home right off the bat," Wilson said. "Going out to all the game days out there really helped me visualize myself there. It just felt like home."

At Wartburg, Wilson will be playing with multiple

teammates, both old and current.

"I think that it will be really fun," Wilson said. "Guys like Ryan Foelkerts and Grant Halverson, who are older, and obviously guys like Jake Walker and Tyler Gayer. I think that it will be really fun to continue to play with them for the next four years."

Jake Walker will be joining Wilson at Wartburg on the football field and he will also be joining the wrestling team.

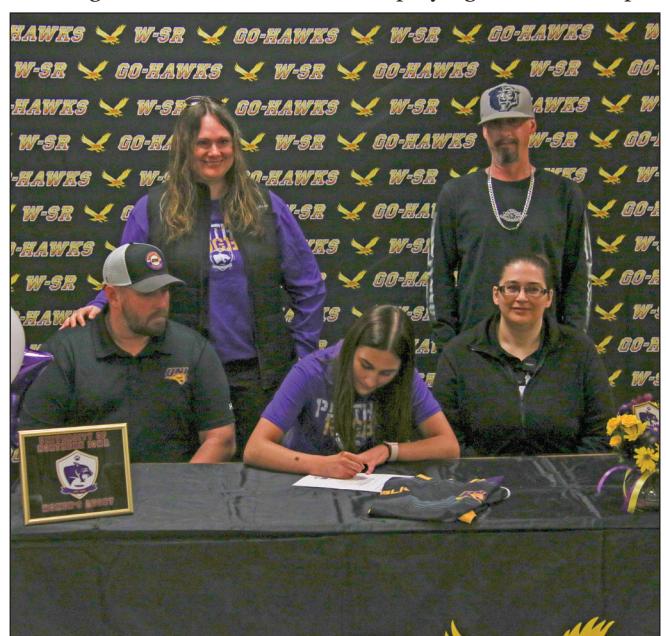
In a previous interview with the Waverly Newspapers, Walker explained why he chose Wartburg.

"It's going to be awesome [to play in front of my hometown]," Walker said. "There's a ton of Waverly guys with me. Tyler Gayer, Jack Wilson and hopefully Sam Roose will be here too. It's also the vets like Jordan Downing. Being close to home and having a home cooked meal whenever I want, but not living at home, will be a change but I think it will be for the better."

In the final signing of the day, Tyler Gayer inked his name to play football at Wartburg.



Mary Carolus (front middle) signed with UNI to play rugby.



Maddy Oelmann signed with UNI for rugby.



Eva Heise (front middle) was the third signee for UNI women's rugby.



Jack Wilson signed to Wartburg to continue to play football.



Tyler Gayer signed to play football at Wartburg.



Jake Walker signed to play both football and wrestling at Wartburg.

## Denver girls soccer beats Union 4-0 on senior night

### DK gets 75th career win

BY NICK THOMPSON  
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DENVER- It was a windy senior night for the Denver girls soccer team on Monday against Union.

Klair Heim, Lexi Gehrke, Grace Hennessy and Teresa Pesco Calvo were all honored at half time, but their impact will be felt long after the season is done.

"This was Teresa's first year," head coach Derek

Krebsbach (DK) said. "She is our foreign exchange student so this is her first year here, but I'm not sure about her experience back home. Klair, Grace and Lexi have been a big part of this program. They've helped change the culture and standard."

The early part of the game was slowed down immensely due to the wind and that made the first 10 minutes of the game scoreless.

A few minutes later, Gehrke was able to get a good chip shot from right inside

the box past the goalie to put the Cyclones ahead 1-0 with 22 minutes to play in the half.

The rest of the half saw Denver make quality runs towards the net, but the wind made things very difficult to convert on those chances.

"The wind definitely made a difference during the first half," DK said. "We kept the

BY NICK THOMPSON  
**Grace Hennessy takes a corner kick. She finished her senior night game with two goals.**



# Denver boys, girls track and field place 1st, 2nd at CoEd Relays, Wapsie boys take 4th

**BY NICK THOMPSON**  
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**DENVER-** Windy conditions made for both faster and slower times at the Denver CoEd Relays on Monday night.

**Denver boys**  
Micah Grier blasted down the line in the 100-meter dash en route to a third place finish with a time of 11.83.

It was a battle of the Ethans in the 200 with Ethan Schoville and Ethan Reiter taking the top two spots with times of 23.09 and 23.12, respectively.

Jackson Schoville was able to place fourth in the 400 with a time of 57.10, four seconds behind first place.

In the 800, Max Schwandt took third place with a time of 2:04.99 and the 4x800 Cyclone quartet placed fifth with a time of 8:58.95.

Neal Pinter battled with East Marshall's Joe Terrones in the 1600, but Pinter fell just short of first and placed second with a time of 4:51.26.

In the sprint medley relay, Denver placed second with a time of 1:42.17, less than half a second behind first place Wapsie Valley.

With the wind at his back, Kasey Wirtjes was able to break his own school record that was broken just two weeks ago in the 110 hurdles. He crossed the line in first place with a time of 14.64 and teammates Evan Dorn and Isaac Larson



Above left: Amber Homan runs in the sprint medley relay. Above right: Kasey Wirtjes runs his leg of the shuttle hurdle relay.

placed second and fourth, respectively, with times of 15.40 and 16.71.

Wirtjes notched yet another hurdle victory, this time in the 400 hurdles, with a time of 59.42, the only sub-minute time. Larson crossed the line in sixth with a time of 1:03.54.

In the 3200, Gabe Swales and Mitchell Doepke placed fourth and fifth, respectively, with times of 12:16.04 and 12:29.23.

Wirtjes grabbed gold easily in the high jump with a height of six feet even. Larson was close behind in third at 5-10.

Will Lockhart had a good showing in the shot put with a throw of 42-05.25 to finish in fourth place.

In the discus, Alex Moran had a throw of 134-02.25 to place third.

Overall, the Cyclones

dominated their home meet with 171 team points, 52 better than South Hardin.

## Denver girls

With only three teams competing on the girls side, Denver was hoping for good results.

The 100 saw Anna Curtis blaze down the track and squeak out a win over New Hampton's Hailee Pesek by just a hundredth of a second, 12.99 to 13.00.

Addison Carlson placed fifth in the same event with a time of 14.36.

Curtis backed up the win with another win in the 200 with a time of 27.19. Amelia Powers was close behind in fourth with a time of 29.52.

The 4x100 quartet was able to take first place with a time of 53.28.

Natalie Demai continued her strong season with a win in the 400, crossing the line

in 1:02.03.

In the 4x200, Denver got another win with a time of 1:58.34.

Amber Homan, Reeve Ristau and Hailey Homan placed first, second and fifth, respectively, in the 800. They crossed the line in 2:31.92, 2:32.13 and 2:42.09.

Sophie Sanderson crossed the line of the 1500 in fourth place with a time of 6:03.66.

In the 4x800, Denver took second place with a time of 11:16.73.

The sprint medley saw Denver take the top two spots with times of 1:57.64 and 1:59.48.

In the distance medley, Denver once again took the top two spots with times of 4:36.94 and 4:45.36.

After competing at the Drake Relays in the 400 hurdles, Aubrey Decker grabbed first place with a

time of 1:09.83, eight seconds faster than second place.

Mollie Tierney was the lone Cyclone representative in the shot put and she placed fourth with a throw of 28-10.75.

Denver placed second in the meet with 141 points and finished behind New Hampton.

## Wapsie Valley boys

Hunter Curley was able to take sixth in the 100 with a time of 12.23.

In the 200, Weston Schares and Traeton Sauerbrei finished back-to-back in third and fourth place. They crossed the line in 23.62 and 23.80.

Aidan Shannon was close to victory in the 800, but finished in second place with a time of 2:04.11. Dawson Schmit crossed the line in fifth in the same event with

a time of 2:10.67.

In the 4x800, Wapsie Valley took third with a time of 8:55.45.

Aidan Brady and Finn Schaefer placed back-to-back in the 1600 in fifth and sixth, respectively, with times of 5:07.17 and 5:23.89.

The sprint medley team was able to place first with a time of 1:41.70.

Mason Harter was the lone Warrior in the 110-hurdles and he took fifth with a time of 16.75.

In the 400 hurdles, Brock Kleitsch placed fifth with a time of 1:02.75.

Marshall Weepie took fifth in the long jump with a leap of 17-03.50.

Derek Hilsenbeck placed fourth in the discus with a throw of 125-06.25.

The Warriors placed fourth with 107 team points.

## 'I feel like we outplayed the No. 1 team': Haase said

### Denver boys soccer falls to top ranked Rebels

**BY NICK THOMPSON**  
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**DENVER-** The Cyclones boys soccer team had a tough task against the number one team in 1A, Grundy Center/Gladbrook-Reinbeck.

Tuesday night was senior night for the Cyclones and this was a special group for head coach Brian Haase.

"They're a special group," Haase said. "I coached these guys during the rec league with the Denver Soccer Club. It's a situation where we are here for each other. This is the reason why I do it. They mean a lot to me. A number of them commented that their favorite memory was the indoor league. That makes me so proud to



Carson Haase takes a free kick in the second half.

be a part of their high school experience."

The game started off with a strong breeze blowing

through the field toward the south and the Cyclones were going with the wind.

Throughout the first 20

minutes of the game, both teams were able to make quality runs towards the net, but the score remained 0-0.

With 10 to play in the half, Carson Haase had a good chance on net off a free kick, but the Rebel goalie was able to make the stop right at the goal line to send both teams into the break tied at zero.

Scoring in the first half was a big goal for Brian, but he was happy with how his team played.

"It was so important," Brian said. "Eventually, we did get some good opportunities against the wind. Our strength is on the ground so we were ok either way. We won the coin toss and we chose the wind for a reason. They're a good team. They're some big athletes as well and I have to give them credit for keeping us out of the goal going against the wind."

Early on in the second half, the Cyclones were mere inches away from taking the lead, but the bounces just weren't going Denver's way.

With 18 minutes to play in regulation, the Rebels had a throw in that was touched by the Cyclone keeper and

found its way into the net to give GC/G-R the 1-0 lead.

Over the final 18 minutes, Denver was close to tying the game back up, but couldn't and went on to fall 1-0.

Despite the loss, Brian is pleased with the result.

"I'm proud of my guys," Brian said. "We stuck to the game plan and we focused on taking their best players out of the game and I felt like we did a great job at it. All in all, I'm so proud of the way we played soccer tonight."

A recurring issue that keeps finding its way into the Cyclone games is the inability to finish goals.

"Finishing, again, was an issue for us tonight," Brian said. "To lose in that fashion is acceptable. I feel like we outplayed the number one team. Injuries were probably a factor in the backline and to lose on a throw in that is inadvertently touched by the keeper, that's going to happen. I'm proud of my guys and I know that we are going to finish strong."

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ball really well in the first half, but we didn't do a great job at creating chances and contesting their goalie. I think that was because of the wind.

"We talked about, in the second half, shooting from range. Kenzie Snyder and Grace Hennessy both got goals from range and that really sparked us."

The final three goals of the game all came within two minutes of each other.

Hennessy got things started just five minutes into the second half with a shot from between the box and the midfield line to put the Cy-

clones ahead 2-0.

Just moments later, Snyder put one in from nearly the exact same spot in the same fashion to give Denver the 3-0 lead.

Hennessy wasn't done scoring outstanding goals though as she put in an Olympic from the left corner that the Union goalie nearly stopped. The goal put the Cyclones ahead for the rest of the game, 4-0.

Hennessy led the way with two goals. Gehrke and Snyder added the others.

Hennessy has improved as a goal scorer throughout her time with Denver and it comes from her younger teammates.

"We definitely have to stay on her," DK said with

a chuckle. "The Mullihan twins get on her pretty hard and tell her to shoot a lot. She's a big clog in the middle, winning balls and then circulated balls and even getting some shots from distance like she did tonight."

This was DK's 75th career win as a high school head coach and what means the most to him is the people that have gone through.

"The players that I've had along the way," DK said. "I'm a young coach and I've had a lot of players believe and trust in my coaching. I can't win without them."

**Klair Heim fights through contact to go towards the ball.**

