

KNIGHT BOYS FINISH SOCCER SEASON IN DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP

By DOUG CALSBEEK
Co-Editor

HULL — One goal separated the team that qualified for 1A boys state from this district and team that ended its season. On Wednesday, May 24, in the match hosted in Hull, it was the 12-2 Western Christian Wolfpack who would advance with a 3-2 win. The Unity Christian Knights ended their season with an 11-6 mark in the season.

Western Christian worked for a 2-1 lead in the first half and hung on for the win after each squad scored once in the second period.

Scoring for the Knights were Brennan Obbink and Jean Maeloungou. With an assist each were Stephen Schreurs and Ivan Vinichenko. Obbink, Schreurs and Ethan Wynia each had two shots on net. With a shot on goal each were Traevin Van Beek, Asa Byl, Maletoungou and Vinichenko.

Miles Baccam, Urchan Harberts and Zachary Minderhoud scored the goals for the Wolfpack. Baccam and Laremy Schreurs each had an assist. Kalen Hartbecke had three shots on goal. With two shots each on net were Harberts and Minderhoud. Three others had one shot on net each.

The Knights recorded eight saves. Wolfpack keeper JD Pettit, Jr., was credited with four saves.

"It was a well fought battle," said Knight coach David Lee. "Western Christian put one in quick in the first few minutes of



Shot away!

Ivan Vinichenko (13) of Unity Christian gets a shot away during play on Wednesday, May 24, Iowa High School Athletic Association 1A District One championship on Wednesday, May 24. Vinichenko assisted on a goal in the 3-2 loss. (Photo by Jeff Bylsma)

the game, which put us in a bad spot. We were able to even the playing field once Brennan Obbink scored the second goal about 15 minutes into the first half. Western Christian responded by putting another in about 30 minutes into the first half."

"The third goal from Western Christian was a dagger at about 15 minutes into the second half," Lee said. "We responded with a last minute goal to put things at 3-2, but by then it was too late.

"Although it wasn't the result we wanted, I am very proud of how the guys played," Lee said, "but, more importantly, throughout the whole season. We've had the best record Unity Christian has had over a decade, and this is just the start for us. Our seniors were a great group to work with. Hard workers but good kids with a big heart, more than anything. I thoroughly enjoyed coaching them this year."

Graduating from the program are seniors Evan Klompfen, Carter Slenk, Maletoungou, Tyce Van Beek, Same Westra and Charlie Wieringa.

	1	2	T	
Unity Christian	1	1	2	
Western Christian	2	1	3	
Player	Ast	G	Shts	SOG
Traevin Van Beek	0	0	3	1
Ethan Wynia	0	0	4	2
Asa Byl	0	0	3	1
Parker Van Roekel	0	0	2	0
Stephen Schreurs	1	0	4	2
Brennan Obbink	0	1	3	2
Jean Maletoungou	0	1	1	1
Ivan Vinichenko	1	0	3	1
Sam Westra	0	0	2	0
Totals	2	2	25	10
Goalkeeping	Min	GA	SV	
Charlie Wieringa	80	3	8	



Bumping for the ball

Traevin Van Beek (1) of Unity Christian tangles with Uchain Harberts (10) of Western Christian in the Wednesday, May 24, Iowa High School Athletic Association 1A District One championship on the grass of the Western Christian field in Hull. The Wolfpack advanced to state play with a 3-2 win. (Photo by Jeff Bylsma)

DUTCH GIRLS FINISH SEASON IN 3A GOLF TOURNAMENT

By DOUG CALSBEEK
Co-Editor

CEDAR FALLS — MOC-Floyd Valley girls' golf coach Tom Rupp hopes this season is a motivator for the Dutch girls, after they got a taste of competition among the best 3A schools in Iowa. Pheasant Ridge Golf Course in Cedar Falls hosted two days of golf among 10 teams who qualified for the chance to play one more Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union tournament.

Gilbert scored 332-321 in play on Thursday and Friday, May 25 and 26, for a 653 and the state title. Gilbert's Eden Lohbach shot the low 70-73, one under par 143 to earn the individual trophy.

"We finished 10th against a field of outstanding teams," Rupp said. "We hit the ball well and played close to our season scoring averages. We struggled with the sand and speed of the greens."

The Dutch scoring four finished within a dozen swings. Freshman Avery Bunkers and junior Avery Van Ravenswaay each scored a 95 on day one, senior Kinzie Van Kekerix a 96. Freshman Allison Heller came around with a 98 in the first 18 holes. Bunkers knocked five strokes from day one's total for a 90. Van Ravenswaay repeated with a 95. Van Kekerix repeated with a 86. Heller scored a 99. Total scores added to 185, 190, 192 and 197.

2023 Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union Class 3A State Tournament Pheasant Ridge Golf Course Cedar Falls MOC-Floyd Valley results	
Gilbert	332-321 — 653
Dubuque Wahlert Catholic	341-331 — 672
Clear Lake	339-337 — 676
Washington	341-347 — 688
Xavier	344-352 — 696
Lisbon	359-365 — 724
West Delaware	366-362 — 728
Nevada	375-361 — 736
Central De Witt	375-385 — 760
MOC-Floyd Valley	384-380 — 764
1 Eden Lohbach, Gilbert	70-73 — 143
34 Avery Bunkers	95-90 — 185
44 Avery Van Ravenswaay	95-95 — 190
46 Kinzie Van Kekerix	96-96 — 192
54 Allison Heller	98-99 — 197
58 Alexa Reuter	102-101 — 203
61 Ava Truesdell	103-106 — 209



On to state!

With a second-place team finish at the Wednesday, May 17, regional golf tournament, Kinzie Van Kekerix, Ava Truesdell, Allison Heller, Avery Bunkers, Alexa Reuter and Avery Van Ravenswaay (from left) of MOC-Floyd Valley punched their ticket to state play. The team will take to the Pheasant Ridge Golf Course in Cedar Falls on Thursday and Friday, May 25 and 26, in Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union 3A competition. (Photo submitted)

Also golfing for the Dutch were senior Alexa Reuter and freshman Ava Truesdell. Reuter finished with a 102-101 — 203, Truesdell with a 103-106 — 209.

"This was the culmination of an outstanding season," Rupp said. "Every player improved greatly from start to finish. Qualifying for the state tournament was a big step for all of the Dutch golfers. We played against some great competition all year long. I hope being at the state tournament inspires our team to strive for the top of the podium."



Knight golfer finished strong at state meet

MARSHALLTOWN — Lauren Vande Griend, Unity Christian senior, finished a high-school golf career competing at the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union Class 2A State Tournament at the American Legion Post \$46 Golf Course in Marshalltown. Vande Griend worked 18 holes each day on Thursday and Friday, May 25 and 26, carding a 97 on the first day and 92 on the second for a meet total of 189 and a placing of 29th.

Sumner-Fredericksburg's Chloe Bolte was 2A individual state medalist with a 152.

On the first day, said Knight coach Cody Harskamp, "Lauren got off to a tough start and played the most difficult holes to start her round. She did play better on her second nine. She putted well but struggled with her second shots.

"Lauren played solid," Harskamp said of the second day. "Had two bad holes but shot 46 - 46 for a total of 92. Overall, Lauren enjoyed her experience and was able to finish strong on the second day."

Seniors Vande Griend and teammate Allyson Yesda each graduated from the Knight golf program.

"Lauren had a solid career at Unity and was able to be a part of the team that qualified for state her sophomore year and then qualify as an individual this year," said Harskamp. "Lauren was able to grow throughout the three years of playing golf at Unity, both mentally and spiritually. COVID took away her freshman year, but she was able to contribute to the Unity golf program in many ways on and off the course."

Northwestern students earn national scholar-athlete honors



ORANGE CITY — At season's end, a number of Northwestern College athletes were recognized by the National Association of

Intercollegiate Athletics for academic excellence. Scholar athletes were named from the ranks of track and field, softball, baseball, tennis and golf.

Fourteen women and four men earned national scholar-athlete notice in the NWC track-and-field program: seniors Abigail Clarke of Waverly, Neb., Braden Jahn of Sioux Center and William Minnick of Orange City; sophomores Abby Ervin of Jewell, Aleah Rees of North Liberty, Caitlin Alberts of Sully, Emma Haley of Orange City, Emma Wilson of McCallsburg, Erin Hulberg of Brookings, S.D., Jacie Vander Waal of Sioux Center, Kennedy Kramer of Larchwood, Megan Bosch of Ankeny, Olivia Anderson of Harlan, Harlan Groves of Faith, S.D., and Trey Engelmann of Storm Lake; and juniors Kaylynn Ridgely of Rockwell City, Lauren Jurrens of George and Shaylee Yates of Harlan.

Eight baseball players earned national scholar-athlete notice: graduate Noa Vogel of Castle Pines, Colo., who was named a scholar-athlete for four consecutive years and played Raider baseball for five; seniors Kip Cullinan of Urbandale, Jacob Kindhart of Shawnee, Kansas, and Ryan Reynolds of Yorkville, Ill.; juniors Lawton Bruxvoort of Pella, Jackson Henry of Kailua, Hawaii, and Jordan Mernaugh of Marshall, Minn., and Jacob Thurm of Humboldt.

Ten Raiders in the tennis program earned the honor, as well: sophomores Julia Anderson of Rapid City, S.D., Rachel Coppock of Pella, Julia Kutz of Sheridan, Wyo., Ainslie Robinson of Luverne, Minn., and Maria Ester Shortenhaus of Buffalo Center; brothers and juniors Jack and Noah Roisum of Rapid City; and seniors Wynne Vandersall of Martelle, Jessica Wilson of Onalaska, Wisc., and Brian VandenBerg of Mason City.

Four softball players from Northwestern won the honor: sophomores Hannah Anderson of Hanlontown and Madison Probst of Orange City, senior Jennifer Boeve of Hastings, Neb., and junior Kameryn Etherington of Algona.

Named from the men's golf team were junior Kyle Christy of Orange City and sophomore Jackson Laven of Spirit Lake. To be recognized as an NAIA Scholar-Athlete, a student-athlete is nominated by the institution's head coach or sports-information director with the criteria of maintaining a minimum grade-point average of 3.5, appearing on the eligibility ticket of the sport, and attending the institution for at least one full year.