



## Post COVID, LOCAL GOLF ROUNDS HAVE STEADILY INCREASED



By DOUG CALSBEEK  
Co-Editor

ORANGE CITY — The weekend rain is welcome for folks trying to keep outdoor greenery alive. It's especially welcome at Landsmeer Golf Club. "There is nothing like rain," said Mark Bloemendaal, president of the Landsmeer Golf Club board of directors. "It's liquid gold." The rain is a welcome exclamation point for the club, which has seen a good season.

"We've had a great summer, weather wise," Bloemendaal. "We've had a three year challenge because of the drought conditions in the area. We've focused our irrigation on keeping greens and tees as healthy as possible. The well that provides water to the ponds that was completed two years ago has been a great help.

"A challenge has been weed control, as weeds seem to thrive better than grass in dry conditions, especially in the areas where we don't have irrigation," Bloemendaal said. "Thick healthy grass chokes out weeds, and some weeds have developed resistance to traditional and safe weed control chemicals."

Thanks to the course's software system and a new on-line tee-time reservation system, tracking of play at the course has become more accurate, Bloemendaal said. "A reservation can still be made in person or by calling, but about 90 percent of our reservations are done online."

Total rounds have steadily increased post COVID, said Bloemendaal. League play has increased by a little this year and tournaments have had greater participation each of the last two years.

"Thanks to increased play and good fiscal management, the course has been doing well financially," said Bloemendaal. "The course revenues, along with annual funding we receive from the city, has allowed the course to operate with an eye toward upgrades, be more competitive with staff compensation and maintain the course at a high level.

"Superintendent Chad Kleinhesselink and Head Golf Pro Mallory Simmelink have done a great job managing their areas, which has helped with both the financial side and overall golf experience," Bloemendaal said.

In addition, Bloemendaal said, "the city has been an incredible partner in helping with some course maintenance and equipment needs. All these have enhanced the golf course as an asset to the community as an attraction for visitors and an amenity for attracting people considering moving to our community."

Agreements with other area courses have helped bring golfers from areas outside of Orange City. Golfers at Landsmeer have full access to The Ridge in Sioux Center, Bloemendaal said, including carts and the range. Landsmeer golfers have discounts at Sioux Golf and Country Club in Alton, Whispering Creek and Green Valley in Sioux City, Two Rivers in North Sioux City, Willow Creek in LeMars and the Bluffs in Vermillion.

Earlier in the spring, the paving in the parking lot on the north side of the clubhouse was extended. Improvements are made from the course's annual operating budget, Bloemendaal said, and support from the Landsmeer Golf Betterment Board. A strip of practice tee mats on the driving range has been added, "as the first phase in upgrading the driving range," Bloemendaal said. New sand was added to most of our bunkers last year, "which has made bunkers much more consistent."

Future improvements included expanding the driving range and improving irrigation coverage around the practice area, Bloemendaal said. "We have tentative plans to add another maintenance shed so we can have enough room to store all of our equipment inside and to make the maintenance area nicer aesthetically, since there is a lot of foot, bike and vehicle traffic on that corner."

Longer-term plans include updating landscaping around the clubhouse, some work on the comfort stations/restrooms on the course and starting to think about a long-term plan for upgrading/replacing the original irrigation system.

## JOINS NWC MEN'S SOCCER AS FULL-TIME ASSISTANT COACH



ORANGE CITY — Tyler Limmer has been added as a full-time assistant coach with the Northwestern men's soccer team, head coach Dan Swier announced on Friday, Aug. 4. After previously serving as a graduate assistant, Limmer becomes the program's first full-time assistant coach.

"I'd like to thank President Christy, Tony Hoops, Dan Swier and the NWC athletic department for giving me this opportunity to continue assisting the

Red Raider men's soccer program," Limmer said. "I look forward to helping lead these men through their pursuit of excellence both on and off the pitch."

A 2019 graduate of Northwestern College, Limmer was a four-time all-conference performer and is the program's all-time leader with 53 goals and 25 assists. He joined the Red Raider coaching staff in 2019.

In his four seasons on the staff, the Raiders have compiled

an overall record of 42-26-7 (.553), earning a share of the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) regular season title and a berth in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) tournament in 2021.

"This is an important moment for our program," Swier said, "the opportunity to keep Coach Limmer on staff in a full-time role will improve the ways in which we can deliver a quality experience to the many young men in our program, both now and in the years to come. "[Tyler's] coaching has been an integral part of the success we have had on the field in the past several years, including the conference title-winning season in 2021. He is a very relational person, which has helped our players develop and mature in recent years, too. I look forward to continuing to work closely with Tyler on a professional level moving forward."

Aside from his coaching pursuits, Limmer was a member of Duluth FC in the just-completed summer season. The team went 11-1-1 and advanced to the National Premier Soccer League (NPSL) conference final.

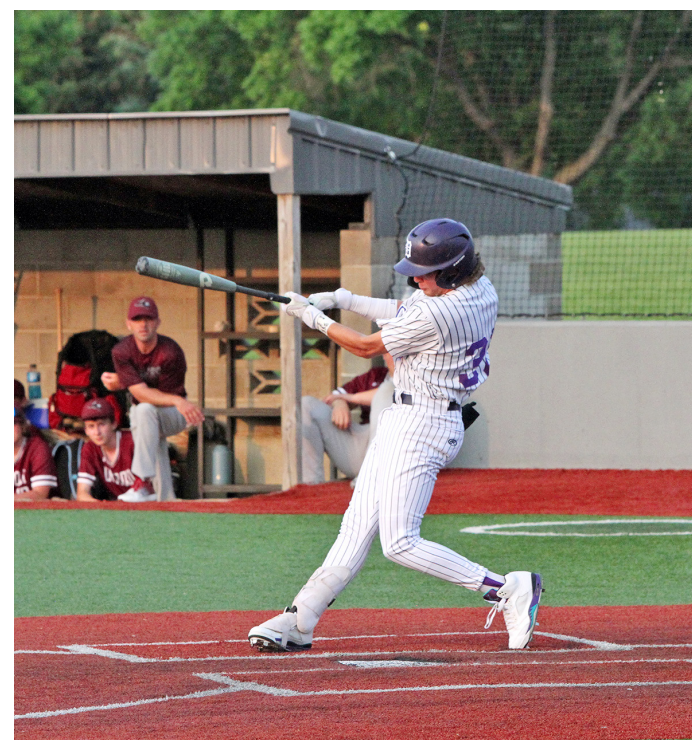
Originally from Brandon, S.D., Limmer holds a bachelor's degree in sport management.

## Two athletes are named to all-state teams

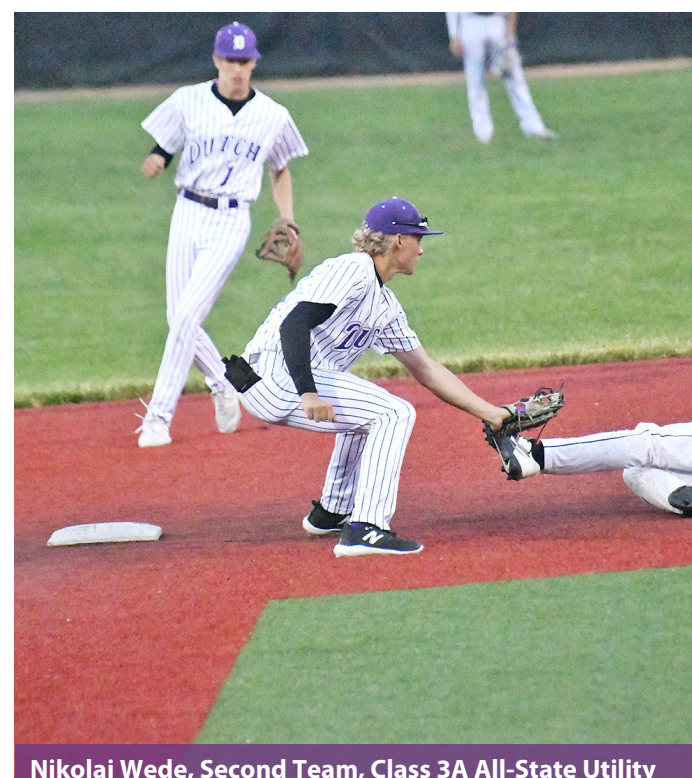
ORANGE CITY — Two MOC-Floyd Valley students were named last week to Class 3A All-State teams.

Senior Carson Jager was named to the first team as an outfielder.

Senior Nikolai Wede was named to the second team as a utility player.



Carson Jager, First Team, Class 3A All-State Outfielder



Nikolai Wede, Second Team, Class 3A All-State Utility

## Landsmeer will host school fundraiser

MOC-Floyd Valley supporters are planning a golf fundraiser at Landsmeer Golf Club for the athletic complex at the new elementary school.

The course will host a four-person scramble and lunch on Saturday, Aug. 12.

Cost is \$150 per person. To register, e-mail nlguthmiller@gmail.com.

Mitch Aalbers, activity director for MOC-Floyd Valley Community School District, said the current fund-raising goal is to match a \$100,000 donation from Iowa State Bank and Diamond Vogel Paint. "We currently sit around \$95,000 for the match, which is great."



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