

## FROM HOOPS TO COACHING TO DIRECTING, NWC ATHLETIC DIRECTOR BEGINS IN AUGUST



ORANGE CITY — Northwestern College announced on Thursday, July 20, the hiring of Tony Hoops as the Orange City college's vice president for athletics. Hoops, formerly athletic director at Bethel College in Kansas for six years, will start his new position in August.

"I am thrilled that God has called Tony Hoops to join us at Northwestern College to lead our athletic programs to new levels of athletic and academic excellence," said Greg Christy, NWC president, in the announcement. "First and foremost, Tony is a devout follower of Jesus and a terrific fit with the Christian vision, mission and values of Northwestern. He is drawn to our athletic mission of 'honoring Christ through excellence in athletics.' Tony has a great understanding of what it takes to not only lead a strong college athletic department but also serve as an institutional leader, having served on the president's cabinet at Bethel, as well."

Hoops, named the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC) Athletic Director of the Year for 2020-21, has led the transformation of Bethel College athletics from a struggling department to one that now has programs winning conference championships and competing at the national level. Bethel teams earned a 3.09 cumulative GPA in 2022 (highest in the last 10 years), and the college has been named an NAIA Champions of Character Gold Standard institution the last five years. He has increased private fundraising departmental gifts by 650 percent, helped raised more than \$6 million for facility updates, generated more than \$400,000 annually for the athletic department and increased booster club membership by 500 percent.

"Northwestern is a unique place with unbelievably caring Christian people," Hoops said in the announcement. "It was going to take a dream position to pull myself and our family away from my alma mater at Bethel College. We found that at Northwestern. The commitment to Christian education, leadership exemplified by President Christy and his cabinet, experienced coaching staff, great facilities, tremendous support for Raider athletics, and the beautiful community of Orange City all made this a position our family could not pass up."

Hoops said in the announcement that he is eager to get to know Northwestern's coaches, staff, donors, alumni and students. "My goals will include collaborating with Northwestern's amazingly talented people to build Red Raider athletics to be the nation's model small-college Christian athletic department and a consistent top-10 athletic department within the NAIA, to compete for championships at the GPAC and national level, and to continue to enhance and grow the Red Raider Athletics Association."

Before his current role, Hoops was head men's basketball coach at Bethel College from 2014 to 2018 and spent eight years as a teacher and coach in two Kansas middle and high schools. He earned a master's degree in school leadership from Baker University and a bachelor's in health management and physical education at Bethel.

Hoops replaces Dr. Micah Parker, who served Northwestern for three years before returning to NCAA Division I California Baptist University.

Northwestern College's athletic department fields teams in 23 sports and competes in the NAIA as a member of the Great Plains Athletic Conference. Red Raider teams have won 10 national championships, including the 2022 football title.

## Red Raider lineman will assist coaches



ORANGE CITY — Former Red Raider and national champion offensive lineman Greg Will will join the Northwestern College football coaching staff in 2023 as a graduate assistant, head coach Matt McCarty announced on Tuesday, July 18.

"Greg had an outstanding career as an offensive lineman for us and understands what it takes to perform at a high level as a Raider," McCarty said. "We are excited for him to join our staff and invest in our players."

Will, a 2022 Associated Press first-team pick and NAIA honorable-mention All-American helped the Red Raider offense that led the nation offensively with a 55-percent third-down conversion rate and 44 rushing touchdowns, tied for second with 38 passing touchdowns, was third with a scoring offense of 43.7 points per game and 467.6 yards per game, ninth with 208.1 yards per game in the rushing game and 14th with 259.5 passing yards per game.

"I am excited and grateful for the opportunity to coach the offensive line at Northwestern," Will said. "Since my football career started, I have always had an interest in coaching and I know NWC is a great place to do that... Coach McCarty has put in a lot of work and done a great job in building a culture that is successful as players on the field and men off the field. The culture extends into the coaching offices, and I am blessed to be joining that."

Will helped secure the program's third national title last season and was a staple on the line for three seasons, while earning First Team All-GPAC honors in a senior season.

Graduating from Northwestern College in May 2023, Will earned a degree in criminal justice. While working as a graduate assistant, he will be working towards a graduate degree in sport leadership.

## Dutch players are named all-district



ORANGE CITY — Seven MOC-Floyd Valley athletes were named to 2023 Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Association all-district teams.

Named to the Northwest District first team were freshman pitcher Brooks McCarty with a 4-0 record on the mound, senior catcher Kael Arends, who batted .302 in the season just completed, sophomore Blake Aalbers at second base, who batted .363, senior outfielder Carson Jager, who batted .438, and senior utility player Nik Wede, who batted .402, and had a 1-0 record as a pitcher.

Named to the second team were senior pitchers Jackson Van Den Bosch, who finished the season with a 4-1 record, and Kooper Huss, who went 6-0 on the mound.



### An introduction

Tony Hoops, newly appointed vice president for athletics at Northwestern College in Orange City, addressed a group of approximately 60 people at the Thursday, July 20, press conference. Hoops outlined a guiding philosophy for student athletes at the college, with an emphasis on sports as a vehicle for success towards graduation. (Photo by Doug Calsbeek)

# ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

## Paige De Boom



One of three seniors who helped anchor the Unity Christian varsity softball program, Paige De Boom, who pitched in five seasons for the Knights, closed out a high-school career among top performers in the War Eagle Conference.

As an eighth grader, De Boom jumped into the softball fray, getting five starts and pitching in 16 games. As a freshman and after 10 game starts, De Boom started in all but three games as a sophomore, worked the circle from game's start 18 times as a junior and started in 21 games in the season just finished.

De Boom, the *Sioux County Capital-Democrat* High School Athlete of the Month,

led all War Eagle pitchers, working in 142.2 innings in the 2023 season, facing 604 batters, well more than any other pitcher in the conference. De Boom was in the top five among War Eagle pitchers with a 1.31 mark in walks and hits per inning pitched.

As a senior in the circle in 23 games, De Boom had a 2.21 earned-run average, second in the conference and worked in 12 wins, third in the loop. De Boom struck out 89 batters to rank in the top five in the War Eagle.

De Boom and teammate Cassady Dekkers had 54 and 55 assists, respectively, in the season, just behind the top player in the loop.

**Congratulations! This local athlete sponsored by:**



VanEngelenhoven Agency

We do **one** thing. Insurance.

**Van Engelenhoven Agency**

122 Central Ave SW  
Orange City, IA  
712.737.6000  
800-856-6001



**We do farm insurance.**

122 CENTRAL AVE SW • ORANGE CITY • 712.737.6000 • VEINSURANCE.COM

CELEBRATING

**60**

YEARS

1962 2022

VanEngelenhoven Agency

We do **one** thing. Insurance.  
YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENCY