



# Sports

## Atlantic News Telegraph

Monday, July 3, 2023

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## Iowa DNR Fishing Report

By Iowa Department of Natural Resources

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' fishing report for the week of June 29, 2023 for southwest Iowa:

### Lake Anita, Cass County, one-half mile south of Anita:

The water temperature is in the high 70s. Black Crappie — Good: Slow troll open water areas keeping your bait above 10 feet to catch 9-inch black crappies. Bluegill — Fair: Bluegills have moved off spawning beds. Troll or drift small jigs to catch 8-inch fish. Largemouth Bass — Good.

### Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie County, southwest edge of Council Bluffs:

Lake Manawa is 2 feet low. Channel Catfish — Fair: Try Sonny's dip bait or cut bait on windy shorelines. Catch catfish of all sizes. Walleye — Fair: Cast or troll crankbaits near the sides of dredge cuts to find actively feeding walleye. Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass) — Slow: Walleye anglers are picking up an occasional wiper on crankbaits.

### Meadow Lake, Adair County, six miles northeast of Adair:

The DNR is drawing Meadow down 3 feet to improve the size quality of bluegill. The boat ramp is usable. Black Crappie — Fair: Find 9-inch black crappie around cedar tree piles. Largemouth Bass — Good: Anglers are catching largemouth bass out of tree piles using plastics.

**Prairie Rose Lake, Shelby County, eight miles southwest of Harlan:** There is an algae bloom on Prairie Rose; fishing is good. Black Crappie — Fair: Look for crappie around deep structure; fish average 10-inches. Bluegill — Fair: Anglers are catching bluegill in open water areas with nightcrawlers. Fish will average 9-inches. Largemouth Bass — Good: Largemouth bass can be caught all around the lake.

**Viking Lake, Montgomery County, four miles east of Stanton:** The Viking Lake water level is back down 18 inches. All boat ramps are usable. Black Crappie — No Report: Look for crappies around deep tree piles. Fish will average 9-inches. There is a large year class of 6-inch black crappie in the lake. Bluegill — Fair: Try slow trolling or casting crawlers under a bobber around deep tree piles. Fish will average 8-inches. Channel Catfish — No Report: Viking has a good population of 19- to 22 --inch channel catfish. Largemouth Bass — Fair: Cast the shoreline just outside the flooded terrestrial vegetation. Anglers are catching numbers of bass in shallow tree piles.

**Willow Lake, Harrison County, 5-1/2 miles west of Woodbine:** Willow Lake has very good water clarity. Panfishing has been good this year. Black Crappie — No Report: Look for black crappie in deep tree piles. Bluegill — Fair: Bluegills average 8-inches. Largemouth Bass — Good.

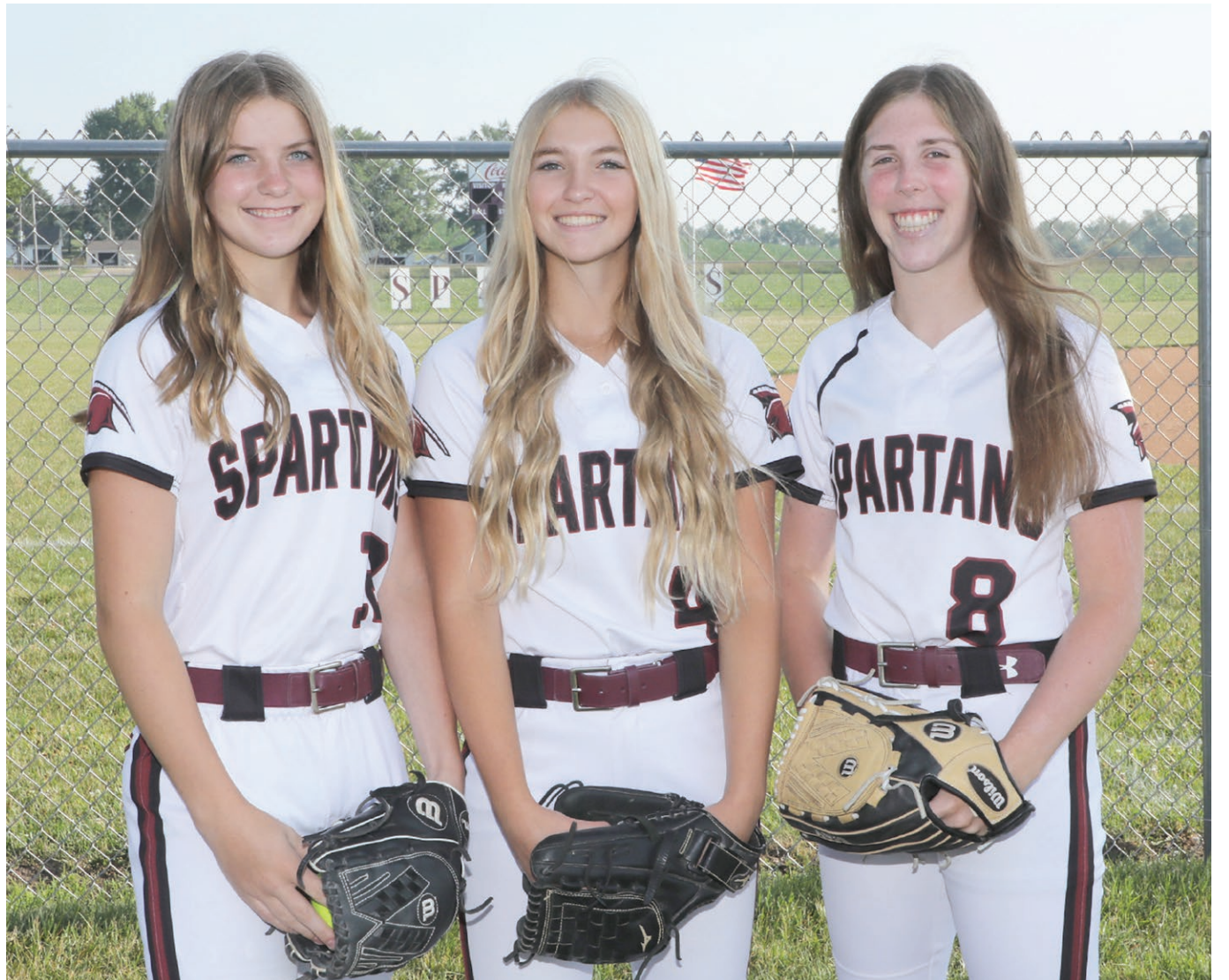
For information on lakes in the Southwest District call the Cold Springs office at (712) 769-2587.

**Green Valley Lake, Union County, 2-1/2 miles northwest of Creston:** Docks are in at the beach and dam boat ramps. Bluegill — Slow: Catch bluegill up to 8.5-inches with jigs or small worms under a bobber along rocky shoreline areas. Largemouth Bass — Slow: Catch largemouth bass up to 20-inches with finesse plastics fished along shallow cedar tree brush piles.

**Lake Icaria, Adams County, 4 miles north of Corning:** Channel Catfish — Good: Catch all sizes

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## Prep Softball



Sue Fischer/Fischer Photography

The primary pitching rotation for Exira-EHK's successful softball team – from left, Taryn Petersen, Riley Miller and Brooklyn Flathers.

# EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS



Brian Rathjen/NT Sports Editor

Exira-EHK's Riley Miller does the windup on a pitch during a non-conference game vs. ACGC Tuesday, June 20, at Guthrie Center.

Trio of eighth-graders, led by Miller, help lead Exira-EHK to No. 13 ranking, RVC title

By Brian Rathjen  
NT Sports Editor

**ELK HORN** – “Big shoes to fill.”

That was the thought going around in the Exira-EHK softball camp after last year's regional final. An all-state pitcher, Macy Emgarten, was leaving the program after winning 76 games over her high school career and a senior-year ERA of a sparkling 0.95.

Three eighth graders have stepped in to fill those shoes nicely.

Riley Miller, Taryn Petersen and Brooklyn Flathers, each eighth graders, have helped the Spartans exceed expectations this summer on the softball diamond.

With a combined ERA of 1.98 and 122 strikeouts between them, Miller, Petersen and Flathers have combined to lead the Spartans to another Rolling Valley Conference championship, a No. 15 state ranking in Iowa Class 1A, and a 20-3 record heading into the regional tournament, which starts next week.

Ask them what's led to their success, they'll each readily answer.

“You have to stay positive. Even when you're

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## NFL

# NFL addresses recent gambling suspensions in a variety of ways

By KYLE HIGHTOWER  
Associated Press

NFL chief compliance officer Sabrina Perel has been busy this spring.

As the leader of the NFL's efforts to educate and train the approximately 17,000 players, coaches, team personnel and others about the league's gambling policies, she's in the throes of an annual pilgrimage of sorts.

With training camps opening in less than a month, she's already visited with more than a dozen NFL teams, and leaves them with the same parting message: “You need to fol-

low the policy at all times. ... because this truly does impact the entire team.”

The reason the NFL has been motivated to get its personnel on the same page was again in the spotlight Thursday when the league suspended four more players for violations of its gambling policy. Three received yearlong bans for betting on NFL games and one a six-game suspension for wagering on non-NFL games.

It brings the total to 10 players disciplined over the past two years as the league vows to increase training efforts across the board with an eye toward protecting the integrity of

the game.

Experts believe the rash of suspensions is part of a new reality for the NFL and other leagues with more violations likely on the horizon. But they don't think it's near reaching a critical mass that could cause fans to question the product on the field.

“I think we are still going to see some growing pains. I think we're going to see probably an uptick while these suspensions play out,” said Oklahoma State professor John Holden, who holds a Ph.D. in sports law and corruption of sport.

The NFL believes blan-

keting its personnel with information is the best remedy in an era where the association between the league and gambling companies continues to grow.

“To ensure the integrity of the game, we have to double and triple and quadruple down on our education efforts,” NFL executive vice president of public affairs Jeff Miller said. “And that's just what we're doing.”

Of those suspended for gambling policy violations since the start of 2022, three players and one assistant suspended were disciplined for betting on non-NFL sports.



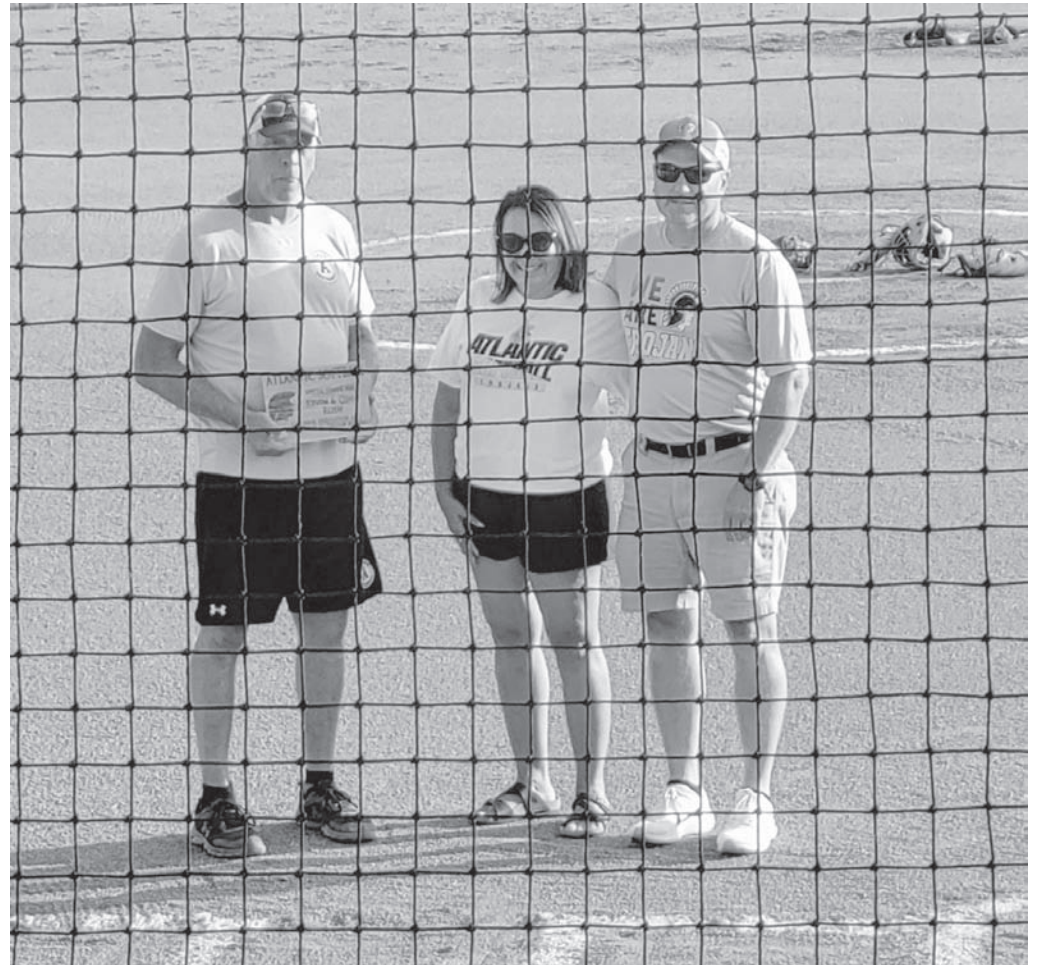
## Photo Rewind

A look at some moments from recent sporting events



Brian Rathjen/NT Sports Editor

Atlantic senior Easton O'Brien watches the direction of his contact with the ball during the Trojans' 5-4 loss to Red Oak Thursday, June 29, at Atlantic. O'Brien had three hits, including a three-run double, in the contest.



Brian Rathjen/NT Sports Editor

The Atlantic softball team honored Kevin and Gena Rush for their contributions to the program during the last eight seasons. Since joining the Trojan softball family in 2015, the Rushes have played an integral part in making the softball experience for every player, regardless of skill or level, a positive and memorable one. Whether it was keeping the scorebook, providing rides for players to and from practices or games, making sure every player has the proper equipment (including a new uniform and pants, minus the rips or holes), to even opening their home for the player in the absence of their own parents, Kevin and Gena have always been there to assist the team. Their daughters, Karsyn and Ava, were members of the Trojan softball program, Karsyn graduating in 2019 and Ava a senior this summer; their older daughter, Payton, played at Griswold. From left are Atlantic softball coach Terry Hinzmann, Gena Rush and Kevin Rush.



Brian Rathjen/NT Sports Editor

The base umpire watches the play as Atlantic second baseman Makenna Schroeder waits to glove the pop fly, and Claire Pellett backs her up, during a rout of Red Oak Thursday, June 29, at Atlantic. The Trojans had a pair of 11-0 wins over the Tigers.

## Pitchers

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down you have to stay positive," said Miller.

"Having a good attitude and being ready for whatever's going to happen," said Petersen.

"Staying confident," Flathers said simply.

The threesome have been playing ball together pretty much since their kindergarten and first-grade years. Miller recalls how she got involved in pitching in the first place.

"Taryn got me into pitching," said Miller. "When we were in third grade, Taryn had a pitching lesson and invited me to come with her and I fell in love with it."

Petersen said she stepped up when there wasn't a pitcher. "I thought I'd step up and just do it," she said.

"Just watching softball in general and playing it. Pitching I was just interested in it," said Flathers.

And each has a pitch that works the best for them, with Miller's rise-ball, Petersen's changeup and Flathers also relying on off-speed and fastballs.

"A lot of people like swinging at higher pitches," said Miller. "When my rise ball goes out of the zone and they swing at it they won't touch it."

Petersen said her changeup is a lot like the fastball pitch in a way. "They come in at two completely different speeds and so when the changeup comes in they're not ready



File and courtesy photos

Exira-EHK's Brooklyn Flathers (above photo) and Taryn Petersen (right) have been an important part of the Spartans' bullpen this season, leading the team to a nifty .

for it," she said.

Coach Andrea Schwery and her predecessor were actually in this situation before, when Emgarten and fellow 2022 graduate Mollie Rasmussen were eighth graders, replacing a veteran crew. During the initial stages of the off-season, it appeared junior Hannah Nelson, possibly senior Shay Burmeister would be handling the bulk of the pitching duties.

"When (Emgarten and Rasmussen) graduated ... you've just got to start working earlier and find someone," she said. "We thought we'd be doing pitching by committee,

but then we had (the eighth graders) step up."

While Nelson and Burmeister are still available, all has gone well with youth on the mound. And, of course, some good catching, with senior Quinn Grubbs and junior Gemini Goodwin calling the signals and handling the deliveries well.

"I didn't know what I was going to get out of the three eighth graders this year," said Schwery of her three rookie pitchers. "They've worked really hard this off-season and they never missed pitching practice during the winter starting in January and go-



ing through May, so the work ethic you're starting to see how that's paying off this year."

The stats bear out their success.

Miller (14-2) has thrown 1,236 pitches in 93-2/3 innings, striking out 115 batters, while walking 28 and hitting one batter; her ERA is 1.35. Petersen has yet to record a decision, having pitched 6-1/3 innings, but has five strikeouts to her credit, while Flathers (2-0) has six varsity innings under her belt with a 2.33 ERA and a pair of strikeouts.

The coach has noted what makes each of her

pitchers successful.

"Riley's pitched the most innings," said Schwery. "I'd say her strength is she has a lot of different pitches she can throw, and she has good control for an eighth grader. I trust her to throw strikes and hit the spots when she's out there."

"Taryn's our fastest pitcher. She has a lot of potential and continues to throw it. I'd say she throws even harder than Riley," she continued, noting that she's working on her consistency. "Brooklyn is definitely more of an off-speed pitcher, and she consistently throws strikes. If we need to get out of an inning

and just let the batters hit the ball we put her in there and she does a good job."

The three really have supported each other, and also have confidence in both the offense and defense. The Spartans have outscored opponents 179-47, while the defense has committed just 25 errors. Team batting average sits at .372, with Miller hitting .540 and Burmeister's .467 tops.

"When put a lot of runs, like we have lately, it takes a lot of pressure off me and our defense," said Miller.

All three are multi-sport athletes. They all play volleyball and are slated to run track, plus Petersen and Miller are expected to play basketball this winter.

Exira-EHK has a first-round bye, and will play either Audubon or Tri-Center of Neola in the regional quarterfinals Wednesday, July 5, at Kimballton. It'll be either Riverside or Woodbine in the semifinals, and likely No. 2-ranked Southeast Warren in the regional final.

All as the Spartans gear for what could be their first state tournament trip since consolidation in 2010.

And a building block for what could be the next big multi-year run for Exira-EHK.

"They've just got to keep working at it," said Schwery. "Sometimes it's hard when you're an eighth grader to see one person succeeding so early and trying to compare, but I think they encourage each other and support each other."

## Fishing

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of channel catfish with nightcrawlers fished along

shallow rocky shorelines.

**Three Mile Lake, Adams County, four miles north of Corning:** Docks are in at main ramp. Walleye — Slow: Use jigs

tipped with a nightcrawler or minnow fished along the fish mounds to catch all sizes of walleyes.

**Twelve Mile Lake, Union County, four miles**

**east of Creston:** The dock is in at main boat ramp. Bluegill — Slow: Try jigs or worms under a bobber fished along the fish mounds to catch bluegill of

all sizes. Largemouth Bass — Slow: Catch largemouth bass up to 19-inches with finesse plastics along rocky shoreline areas.

Water temperature is in

the upper 70s in most lakes. For more information, call the Mount Ayr Fisheries office at (641) 464-3108.