

The News SPORTS

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Daren Lambert's coaching dream begins at home, with Julie



Paul Bowker
Columnist

The moment nearly brings tears to Daren Lambert's eyes.

He clearly has a passion for both high school basketball and high school football.

But there is also family.

So, on the day that longtime Mid-Prairie head football coach Pete Cavanaugh told Lambert and his other assistant coaches that he had decided to end his Golden Hawks football run after 19 years and a school-record 123 wins, Lambert went home to his wife, Julie, with news. Big news.

The fact that Julie was the first one Daren talked to should come as no surprise.

"I feel like no coach can be successful, no coach in my position now with two sports can do anything without their wife," Daren Lambert said, talking one day last week after completing his day of teaching social studies classes at Mid-Prairie Middle School.

Touchdowns and 3-pointers matter. But family matters more.

"Unless you're a head coach's wife, you have no idea," he said. "An assistant coach's wife knows, as well. When you've got all the responsibility and then you take some of that home, those hours you have to put in. So, she was the

SEE BOWKER | PAGE 4B



GIOVANNI CORONELL/THE NEWS

Lone Tree sophomore, Cate Sexton, clears a hurdle during the 4x100m hurdle event at a track meet in Wayland on April 27th.

ELECTRIC EKSTRAND RELAYS

Lone Tree, Hillcrest, and Highland battle it out at the Ekstrand Relays on April 27

BY GIOVANNI CORONELL
The News

WAYLAND

Over a dozen schools took the wayward trip to Wayland to compete in the annual Ekstrand Relays on April 27. Taking place near WACO high school at Roth Field this relay was bustling with local area high school athletes. Among the schools who showed up to compete at this CO-ED meet were Lone Tree, Hillcrest, and Highland.

Competition was separated between Class A and Class B divisions and the Lions, Huskies, and Ravens all competed in Class B.

On the girls side Danville emerged as

meet champions in Class B with a score of 131 and on the boys side WACO came out on top of Class B with a score of 164.

Lone Tree Results

The Lady Lions put up another stellar performance this season, finishing in second place in Class B with a score of 118. Lone Tree and Danville were the only schools in Class B to score above 100.

Winning three events during the relays the top performers for Lone Tree came from Rylee Shield, Vivian Zaruba, Ava Christofferson, Riley Krueger, and Sophie Bell.

The team of Zaruba, Christofferson,

Krueger and Shield continue to show how fast they can be in the 4x100, taking first place with a time of 52.03.

In the sprint medley the team of Bell, Zaruba, Shield, and Christofferson finished ahead of everyone else to win gold with a time of 1:54.95.

Shield won the only individual event for the Lady Lions. She emerged victorious in the 200 meter dash with a time of 27.59, just topping the second place time of 27.65.

For the Lone Tree boys they finished the night with 52 points, which gave

SEE EKSTRAND RELAYS | PAGE 2B

Hawks set new personal bests at WL Invitational



GIOVANNI CORONELL/THE NEWS

Mid-Prairie senior, Alex Bean, looks on after teeing off during a golf meet on April 10th.

BY GIOVANNI CORONELL
The News

WEST LIBERTY

Traveling to the West Liberty Country Club, along with 11 other schools, Mid-Prairie competed in its 3rd 18-hole event at the West Liberty Invitational Golf Tournament on April 25.

In its first two 18-hole meets Mid-Prairie finished in fifth place out of ten teams and fourth place out of eight teams. Staying consistent the Golden Hawks secured a fifth place finish at the West Liberty Invite with a season low score of 350.

"It was a great effort today. A lot of very good teams and golfers and we competed with them," Mid-Prairie coach Kelby Bender said. "Another course three of the golfers had not played and did a great job."

Just missing fourth place by four strokes the Golden Hawks outing in West Liberty proved to be a rewarding one, with its golfers continuing to improve through experience on other courses.

There was a two-way tie for first place at the Wildcat Invite. Beckman Catholic and Clear Creek Amana finished with identical scores of 314 to take first place. In third place was West Liberty with a score of 346.

The medalist of the meet was Regina Catholic senior Mikey Takacs with his first place score of 73. Clear Creek Amana junior Alex Courtright earned

runner-up medalist honors with his score of 74.

Just missing a top ten finish Mid-Prairie junior Drew Schlabaugh tied for 12th place, along with West Branch senior Will Bridges, out of a field of 71 golfers. Schlabaugh would shoot his personal best to finish with a score of 82. This was the top score among all Golden Hawk Golfers.

He shot a 42 on the front nine and a 40 on the back nine to arrive at his final score.

Schlabaugh would sink in one birdie on hole eight and nine pars during the meet. The pars came on hole one with five strokes, hole five with four strokes, hole six with four strokes, hole nine with four strokes, hole 10 with five strokes, hole 11 with three strokes, hole 13 with four strokes, hole 15 with four strokes, and hole 16 with five strokes.

"Drew continues to play well as he shot a personal best 82 with nine pars and finished tied for 12th out of 71 golfers," Bender said. "He just missed another top 10 finish by only two strokes."

Also shooting a personal best was Mid-Prairie senior Aiden Bush. Bush shot an 83 to tie for 14th place, along with Tipton senior Colin Nash and Winfield-Mount Union junior Carter Loyd. On the front nine Bush shot a 40 and on the back nine he finished with a 43.

SEE MP GOLF | PAGE 3B

ATHLETE of the WEEK

SARAH BURTON

HIGHLAND JUNIOR

Burton continues to display her exceptional prowess in the long jump, taking first place in the event at three consecutive track and field events. On April 25 she took first place at the Savage Relays with a jump of 17-01.50. On April 27 her winning jump at the Ekstrand Relays was 17-07. She capped off the week taking first place at the Highland Relays on May 1, with a jump of 17-09.

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