

Nicolet NATIONAL BANK PRESENTS Senior Spotlight

# Payton Schilz – Bay Port boys’ swimming, soccer

BY MURRAY GLEFFE  
CORRESPONDENT

**Name:** Payton Schilz  
**Nicknames:** P, Pay-Pay  
**School:** Bay Port  
**Sports:** Boys’ swimming, soccer  
**Parents:** Jim and Roshel Schilz  
**Twitter:** @schilz\_payton

Payton Schilz is a senior on the Bay Port boys’ swimming team.

He also played soccer in the fall for the Pirates.

Schilz recently qualified in three events for the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 1 state swimming meet coming up this weekend at Waukesha South High School.

If given the chance, he said he’d love to be comedian Pete Davidson for a day, and his favorite phone app is ESPN.

**Do you wear a certain outfit for meets?**

“The meet outfit consists of sweats, sweatshirt and the team warmup.”

**What’s the greatest piece of advice somebody has told you?**

“Take it all in. Before you know it, you’re going to want it all back.”

**Talk about your breathing pattern in the pool.**

“I try to breathe equally



Bay Port senior Payton Schilz is a member of the boys’ swimming and soccer teams. Submitted Photo

on each side. You see more of the pool and racers. It helps because practice

makes perfect.”

**What are two things you’d like to see**

**changed in today’s world?**

“No more school shootings and give every kid an opportunity to excel in their talent.”

**What’s good advice to parents who want to get their son involved in swimming?**

“Start them sooner rather than later. Out of all the sports I’ve done, swimming is by far the hardest and most physically demanding. It’s easier to learn the sport at a young age.”

**Would you rather swim in 25- or 50-yard pools?**

“25-yard pools.”

**Talk about the individual medley (IM), freestyle, breaststroke, butterfly and backstroke and how different each is.**

“The IM is in a category of its own. Those who excel at the IM are the best overall swimmers because they can compete in all four strokes. The freestyle is the fastest and all about speed and power. The breaststroke is my worst when I swim it. It’s crucial to focus because it’s a technique-first and power-later swim. In the butterfly, I picture it as a dolphin diving in and out of the water – it’s one fluid motion. Many believe butterfly takes lots of strength, but if you put a

little effort into your technique, it’s quite easy and can make you swim faster. The backstroke is about using the walls and your underwater kick to your advantage.”

**What are your college aspirations?**

“I plan to play soccer at St. Norbert College.”

**Ireland or England for a soccer vacation?**

“England.”

**How many races could you compete in a meet if given the chance?**

“You have four total entries coming into meet day. You can only choose two individual events – the rest can be relays.”

**Besides swimming, what are your favorite things to do in each season?**

“I enjoy playing soccer in the spring and go boating in the summer. I like the trick-or-treaters on Halloween in fall and love to snowboard in winter.”

**How do certain pools favor high school athletes?**

“If there is a warm-down pool, it benefits athletes because you can get a cool-down in while other athletes are using the normal pool.”

**What one word describes you?**

“Outgoing.”

**What are your favorite music genres?**

“Hip-hop, pop.”

**Would you rather sit outside in a hammock or surf the tide?**

“Surf the tide.”

**What makes the community of Howard-Suamico special?**

“They make every student feel welcomed.”

**How much does the kick off the wall help in winning races?**

“The dolphin kick off the wall is like a fifth stroke. A good kick off the wall is everything in tight races.”

**Chex Mix or Gardetto’s?**

“Gardetto’s.”

**Talk about a volunteer moment.**

“When I volunteered at the New Zoo (Zoo Boo). It was fun hiding amongst the trails and scaring the patrons on the haunted hayride.”

**Favorites**

**Professional teams:** Seattle Sounders (FC Soccer team), Green Bay Packers

**Subjects:** Human biology, science

**Movie:** “She’s Out of My League”

**MICHALKIEWICZ**  
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all last season, including an undefeated FRCC season.

The Redbirds lost in overtime in Level 3 to Hartford, 43-42.

Michalkiewicz was 62-43 in his 11 seasons at De Pere, including a 9-0 FRCC mark in 2015 and a 7-0 conference record during the alternate fall season in spring 2021.

“Coaching at De Pere is not a stepping-stone job,” Michalkiewicz said. “It’s an outstanding program, and I’ve enjoyed my time here.”

Michalkiewicz is currently a teacher in De Pere and will remain so until the end of the school year.

“I also received a teaching job in Kimberly, so we intend to move to the district,” Michalkiewicz said. “My wife Tracie and I are excited to join the Kimberly community and raise our two daughters (Zoey and Ava).”

Michalkiewicz said it was difficult to tell the De Pere players about his intentions.

“That was tough,” he said. “I was formerly offered the job (Tuesday, Feb. 8, in the afternoon), so calling a meeting for Wednesday morning (Feb. 9) wasn’t possible. The best I could do was after school that day. Things started to leak out, and the kids started asking questions. It was important for them to hear it from my mouth. There were at least 60 kids stuffed into my classroom. It was an emotional moment. There’s nothing easy about leaving De Pere.”

In 11 seasons, Jones led the Papermakers to five



Chad Michalkiewicz

Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association state championships, a 70-game winning streak that set a state record and an overall 129-9 record.

Despite the success of the Kimberly program, Michalkiewicz said he’s not nervous to take over after Jones.

“Not at all,” he said. “That’s not meant as an arrogant statement, and there are a couple of reasons for that. No. 1, Steve (Jones) offered to mentor me. It’s a bonus for the kids in the program to have some stability. Secondly, I’ve never been a guy who gets nervous. I trust in the preparation and will have a strong assistant coaching staff in place.”

Michalkiewicz said he wasn’t told how many applicants for the Kimberly job there were, but he “imagines there were quite a few.”

“There are lots of expectations at Kimberly – I’m aware of that,” he said. “It’s probably the top high school football job in the state.”

Michalkiewicz leaves the De Pere program in good hands for the next head coach.

“Some people might ask, ‘How in the heck do you leave a team with Gabe Herman, Noah Gehin and Michael Alexander returning?’” he said. “That’s a fair question. It’s right to leave a program in good hands. Whoever takes over will have nine returning starters on offense. De Pere football is in good shape – I take comfort in knowing that.”

De Pere Athletics Director Jeff Byczek said it’s a good opportunity for Michalkiewicz.

“I’m happy for Chad and his young family,” he said. “It’s an opportunity all coaches want – to see what they can do. I wish him the best. It wasn’t an easy decision for him.”

Byczek said the De Pere job is appealing.

“We’re the defending FRCC champs and have a ton of returning starters coming back,” he said. “Our facility is brand new with the football field – there are lots of attractive things. Most importantly, we have great kids and families.”

Byczek said the job is already posted.

“The school district, like others, will soon be coming out with teaching positions,” he said. “Many coaches interested in this job will also be looking for a teaching job. By the end of the month, we should know more about those openings. Hopefully, by early to mid-spring, we’ll have a new football coach.”



**Driving hard to the lane**

Ashwaubenon’s Marcus Tomashek, left, goes up for a shot in the paint against De Pere’s Ben Willihnganz Feb. 11. Tomashek had 29 points in the Jaguars’ 81-67 loss. Josh Staloch Photo

Story ideas? Contact Sports Editor Rich Palzewic at rpalzewic@mmclocal.com

Press Times

# WEEK IN REVIEW

## Phoenix drop 20th of year in two losses at home

BY MURRAY GLEFFE  
CORRESPONDENT

GREEN BAY – The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay men's basketball team lost a pair of Horizon League games last week at home.

### Wright State

The Phoenix surrendered a 22-3 run to start the second half en route to a 79-62 setback Feb. 9 at the Resch Center.

Kamari McGee scored a career-high 24 points to lead the Phoenix, while Nate Jenkins added 12.

"We battled and played well in the first half," Green Bay Head Coach Will Ryan said. "It's been the story of our season where we hang around and then run out of gas and make mental mistakes in the second half. (Wright State) got easy looks, and that's where they caused the separation."

Green Bay gave up 44 points in the paint and committed 15 turnovers.

The Phoenix took their only lead of the night, 28-26, when Cem Kirciman scored on a layup.

Wright State took a 38-34 lead into intermission.

Leading 41-39, the Raiders scored 22 of the next 25 points for a 63-42 lead.

Green Bay got no closer than 15 points the rest of the way.

### Northern Kentucky

The Phoenix put up a valiant second-half effort but came up short in a 71-62 loss Feb. 11 at the Kress Events Center.

"I keep telling our guys, 'I sound like a broken record after each game,'" Ryan said. "I didn't realize we went through a six-minute scoring drought. When the guys lose focus, they do things uncharacteristically. One day, it's going to click."

Green Bay (4-20 overall, 3-12 Horizon) put three into double figures, with Cade Meyer leading the way with 14 points.

Ansong and Jenkins scored 12 and 11 points, respectively.

The Phoenix pulled down 13 offensive rebounds but gave up 16 fast-break points.

Green Bay went to half-time trailing 30-25.

In the second half, Green Bay trailed by 18 points.

Ryan Clafin and Randy Tucker made field goals to cut the lead to 59-49.

The Phoenix got within six at 63-57, but Northern Kentucky made its free throws down the stretch.

Green Bay returns home Feb. 18 and 20 when it entertains Purdue Fort Wayne and Cleveland State, respectively.



UW-Green Bay men's basketball player Manny Ansong, with ball, goes up for a shot in first-half action Feb. 9. He's being defended by Wright State's Grant Basile. The Phoenix lost the Horizon League game, 79-62. **Murray Gleffe Photo**



### Not in my house

Notre Dame Academy's Peyton Musial, right, gets her hand on a Claire Bjorge shot attempt Feb. 15 at Notre Dame. The Tritons beat De Pere in the Fox River Classic Conference game, 61-60. **Josh Staloch Photo**

## St. Norbert men's hockey loses a pair at Adrian

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

DE PERE – The St. Norbert College men's hockey team traveled to Adrian College last weekend and came home with a pair of losses.

The Green Knights and Bulldogs entered the two-game series with identical 16-0 records in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA).

Adrian, the No. 1-ranked Division III team in the country, beat St. Norbert in back-to-back nights, 8-4 and 6-2, respectively.

On Friday, the Green Knights jumped out to a 2-0 lead early in the second period and took a 3-2 lead into the third period.

The Bulldogs then scored six consecutive goals in the

final period.

On Saturday, with the game tied at 1-1 after the first period, Adrian scored five goals in the middle period to put the game away.

St. Norbert hosts Marian University this Friday-Saturday, Feb. 18-19, in an NCHA quarterfinal series at the Cornerstone Community Ice Center, with both games beginning at 7 p.m.

## East snaps three-game skid with win over West

BY MURRAY GLEFFE  
CORRESPONDENT

GREEN BAY – Almost three weeks ago, the Green Bay East boys' basketball team sat with a 13-2 record.

Then came a three-game losing streak.

The Red Devils got back to their winning ways in a 63-41 Bay Conference victory Feb. 10 over Green Bay West.

"It was nice to get off the snide," East Head Coach Rick Rosinski said. "Two of the three games were competitive and came down to the last possession. It was nice to get a win against our cross-town rivals."

Vance Alexander led East with 16 points, while Oliver Killian chipped in 14.

Sam Hemery paced West with 18 points.

About 30 seconds into the game, Red Devils leading scorer Ryan Sweeney picked up his second foul.

Despite the adversity, East took a 15-6 lead after Marcus Hall grabbed an offensive rebound and put in the layup.

The Red Devils seized control late in the first half, using a 10-point run to take a 33-14 lead at half-time.

Sweeney, who averages about 22 points per game, picked up his third foul in the first half and went to the bench with his fourth early in the second half.

Eventually, the lead shrunk to 43-30.

Fortunately, for East, Cole Gillespie, Alexander and Killian made timely shots to extend the lead to 53-30 before Sweeney reentered the game down the stretch.

**BUTLER**  
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At Detroit Mercy, Butler scored 8 points and pulled down a career-high 6 rebounds.

In the three wins, she averaged 10 points, 5 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 1.6 steals per game.

Combined, Butler shot 55.5% from the floor and 33.3% from beyond the 3-point line.

# WEEK IN REVIEW

## Hornseth's buzzer-beater lifts De Pere to victory

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

DE PERE – With 1.2 seconds remaining in the De Pere versus Notre Dame Academy boys' basketball game Feb. 15, the Redbirds and Tritons had battled to a 58-58 tie in front of a packed house at De Pere.

A few seconds later, De Pere was celebrating Will Hornseth's buzzer-beater in a thrilling 60-58 Fox River Classic Conference victory.

The 6-foot-8 sophomore took a 3/4 court pass from Gabe Herman at the free-throw line, turned to the basket, took a dribble and flipped up a scoop shot that went through the hoop as the buzzer sounded.

"That's the play we had drawn up," Hornseth said. "Gabe (Herman) is the (De Pere football team's) quarterback, so that came in handy. (Notre Dame's Luke) Warden got a hand on it, so it was tough to grab. It was awkward because I had such little time to shoot. I turned around as quick as I could."

The bucket sent the De Pere (20-2 overall, 14-2 FRCC) student body rushing onto the floor in a mad dash.

"Yeah, there were lots of people around me," Hornseth laughed.

The Tritons (16-5, 12-3) trailed by 10, 47-37, with about eight minutes remaining but went on a 19-7 run to take a 56-54 lead late in the game.

Two free throws each by Herman and Jack Jorgensen gave the Redbirds a 58-56 lead with 42 seconds left.



De Pere center Will Hornseth, left, grabs a rebound while teammate Gabe Herman, bottom, and Notre Dame Academy's Chris Mitchell collide under the basket Feb. 15. The Redbirds won on a last-second shot by Hornseth, 60-58.

Josh Staloch Photo

When Herman was fouled, Notre Dame's Chris Mitchell, who had 17 points, fouled out.

After Herman made a steal on the Tritons' next possession, he called time-out with 26 seconds left.

Herman was then fouled with 19 seconds remaining but missed both free throws.

With time running down, Notre Dame's Ethan Wall-

Atim had the ball near the left corner, looking for a teammate.

When no option opened, Wall-Atim took it to the rim and scored with 1.2 seconds remaining, setting up the final dramatic play.

"I'm not sure how that ball got through Warden's hands to get to Will," De Pere Head Coach Brian Winchester said. "With 1.2 seconds left, you have to be

fortunate to win a game like that. Will is skilled, so it wasn't a lucky shot. At the same time, lots of things had to go right for that play to happen."

Winchester had nothing but praise for the Tritons.

"Both teams were competing for a conference championship," he said. "They're an up-and-coming team this year, and they wanted to win as bad as we



Will Hornseth is a 6-foot-8 sophomore on the De Pere boys' basketball team.

Rich Palzewic Photo

did. They defend extremely well. It was a physical game, and we got frustrated at times."

Early on, with the Redbirds leading 14-13, they went on a 9-0 spurt to push the advantage to 23-13.

Notre Dame closed the gap to 26-21 at the break before pulling within 30-29 three minutes into the second half.

Six points from Hornseth, five from John Kinziger – including a 3-pointer – and 3-pointers from Ben Willingham and Jorgensen gave De Pere its second 10-point lead of the game.

"It was a great high school game, no doubt," first-year Notre Dame Head Coach Brian Bobinski said. "It was the highest of stakes in a great atmosphere. We put up a good fight, and I'm

proud of my kids for hanging in there and coming back at the end. My kids are awesome – they're an unselfish group."

Hornseth scored a game-high 19 points, while Kinziger (16) and Herman (14) also scored in double figures for the Redbirds.

Keegan King and Emmett Lawton scored 12 and 11 points, respectively, for the Tritons.

It was the second straight game De Pere played in front of a packed house at its gym.

The Redbirds also beat Ashwaubenon Feb. 11, 81-67.

"That was a hard two-game stretch," Winchester said. "We'll be ready for our last two conference games (at Green Bay Southwest and Sheboygan North)."

## Ashwaubenon, Bay Port finish second at boys' swimming sectionals

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

BROWN COUNTY – The Ashwaubenon and Bay Port boys' swimming teams each finished second at their respective Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) sectionals Feb. 12.

Neenah won the Division 1 Neenah Sectional with 380 points, with the Pirates close behind with 373 points.

Green Bay United (fifth, 194) and Pulaski (seventh, 133) also competed.

Cedarburg won the Division 2 Ashwaubenon Sectional with 347 points, with the Jaguars scoring 313 points.

Only the winner from each event at sectionals automatically qualified for the WIAA state meet Feb. 18-19 at the Waukesha South High School Natatorium.

Based on time, several other individuals/relay teams also advanced to

the state meet as special qualifiers.

State qualifiers include:

### Division 1 – Neenah Sectional

**200-yard medley relay:** 2, BP (Lawson Meier, Ozan Kalafat, Asa Sadowsky, Payton Schilz), 1:37.01

**200 freestyle:** 1, Kalafat, BP, 1:39

**200 individual medley:** 1, William Nichol, BP, 1:59.17; 2, Turner Long, BP, 2:00.69

**100 butterfly:** 3, Mikhail Neverman, GBU, 52.84; 4, Sadowsky, BP, 53.42; 5, Kyler Simonet, GBU, 53.93

**100 freestyle:** 3, Schilz, BP, 48.56

**500 freestyle:** 1, Kalafat, BP, 4:35.55; 3, Long, BP, 4:50.79; 4, TJ Shaw, PUL, 4:53.56

**200 freestyle relay:** 4, BP (Long, Nicol, Dominick Azzolina, Meier), 1:31.93

**100 backstroke:** 2, Neverman, GBU, 53.41; 3, Sadowsky, BP, 54.25

**100 breaststroke:** 1, Nicol, BP, 1:00.07

**400 freestyle relay:** 1, BP (Sadowsky, Schilz, Turner Long, Kalafat), 3:11.31

### Division 2 – Ashwaubenon Sectional

**200 medley relay:** 4, ASH (Alexander Smits, Anthony Hendrickson, Trevor Dietzler, Ryan Jadin), 1:44.21

**200 freestyle:** 1, Jackson Hodek, ASH, 1:44.39

**200 individual medley:** 3, Smits, ASH, 2:06.42

**50 freestyle:** 3, Cooper Herr, 22:40

**100 butterfly:** 3, Andrew Hodek, ASH, 57.97; 4, Dietzler, ASH, 58.83

**100 freestyle:** 3, Herr, ASH, 48.00

**500 freestyle:** 2, J. Hodek, ASH, 4:43.49; 3, A. Hodek, ASH, 4:59.92

**200 freestyle relay:** 3, ASH (Herr, Jadin, Dietzler, J. Hodek), 1:31.99

**400 freestyle relay:** 3, ASH (Herr, Smits, A. Hodek, J. Hodek), 3:21.75

## Dozens of area wrestlers advance to sectionals

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

BROWN COUNTY – Several area wrestlers advanced to sectionals based on their performances at various Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association regionals across the state.

Only the top-four wrestlers in each weight category advanced to sectionals this Saturday, Feb. 19.

Sectional qualifiers include:

### Division 1 – Shawano

Pulaski won the meet overall with 233.5 points.

Local teams Bay Port (201, second), De Pere (133.5, fourth), West De Pere (116.5, fifth), Ashwaubenon (sixth, 111), Green Bay Preble (69, seventh) and Green Bay United (61.5, eighth) also competed.

**106:** Mycah Beckett (DP, first); Owen Wathke (BP, second); Ashton Kapla (PUL, third)

**113:** Ethan Eggert (PUL, first); Ethan Agnew (WDP, second); Peyton Garcia (BP, third); Noah Egandury (ASH, fourth)

**120:** Shane Corrigan (DP, first); DAndre Mixon (GBU, second); Colin Pratt (PUL, third); Nicholas Schomaker

(BP, fourth)

**126:** Owen Noel (BP, first); Connor Nooyen (PUL, second); Alex Yang (PRE, third); Eric Bishop (ASH, fourth)

**132:** Ryan Frewerd (PUL, second); Owen Bowers (ASH, third); Ryker Crooks (WDP, fourth)

**138:** Collin Hansen (DP, first); Brady Gille (PUL, second); Brady Deal (PRE, third); Jonah Leisgang (ASH, fourth)

**145:** Jacob Ward (BP, first); Alec Ukkola (WDP, second); Cole Gorecki (PUL, fourth)

**152:** Ayden Bruckner (BP, second); Dylan Moureau (GBU, third); Zac Wotruba (WDP, fourth)

**160:** Tristan Taylor (PUL, first); Thomas Mudd (WDP, second); Chris Vannieuwenhoven (BP, third)

**170:** Chase Woosencraft (PUL, second); Colton Zipp (BP, third); Jacob Mc Vane (ASH, fourth)

**182:** Michael Alexander (DP, first); Trenton Gibbons (PUL, second); David Torres (PRE, third)

**195:** Brennan Kincade (DP, first); Jack Nielsen (ASH, second); Spencer Francois (WDP, third); Will Friedman (PUL, fourth)

**220:** Mason Wells (PUL, first); Curtis Downey (GBU, third); Connor Hoerth (WDP, fourth)

**285:** Vaughn Campbell (BP, first); Troy Dietzler (ASH, second); Ross Rowland (DP, fourth)

### Division 2 – Seymour

Freedom won the meet overall with 279 points, while Seymour, the only local team to compete, finished second with 222.5 points.

**106:** Taren Schadrie (SEY, third)

**113:** Connor Steffens (SEY, first)

**120:** Conner Patz (SEY, third)

**126:** Nicholas Peters (SEY, second)

**132:** Mason Bunnell (SEY, second)

**138:** Ryan Tomazevic (SEY, first)

**145:** Corbin Krueger (SEY, second)

**152:** Wyatt Bunnell (SEY, third)

**170:** Mason Stephanus (SEY, second)

**182:** Lucas Leisgang (SEY, second)

**195:** Bryce Besaw (SEY, fourth)

**220:** Ian Jones (SEY, fourth)

# Bay Port graduate, Van Lanen, reminisces about first year with Green Bay Packers

BY GREG BATES  
CORRESPONDENT

GREEN BAY – As Cole Van Lanen jogged out to the field, he kept his composure.

He soaked up this once-in-a-lifetime experience in front of 78,000 spectators.

It was the first time the Bay Port product was getting a snap in an NFL regular-season game – and it was at Lambeau Field wearing a Green Bay Packers uniform.

The rookie offensive lineman made his NFL debut in the Packers' regular-season home finale against the Minnesota Vikings Jan. 2.

Van Lanen played the final snap of the game, which was a kneel down in victory formation.

"It was awesome," Van Lanen told The Press Times. "I grew up coming to games, and then I was one of them on the field with kids and families in the same position I was in. Now, I'm one of them, and it was awesome."

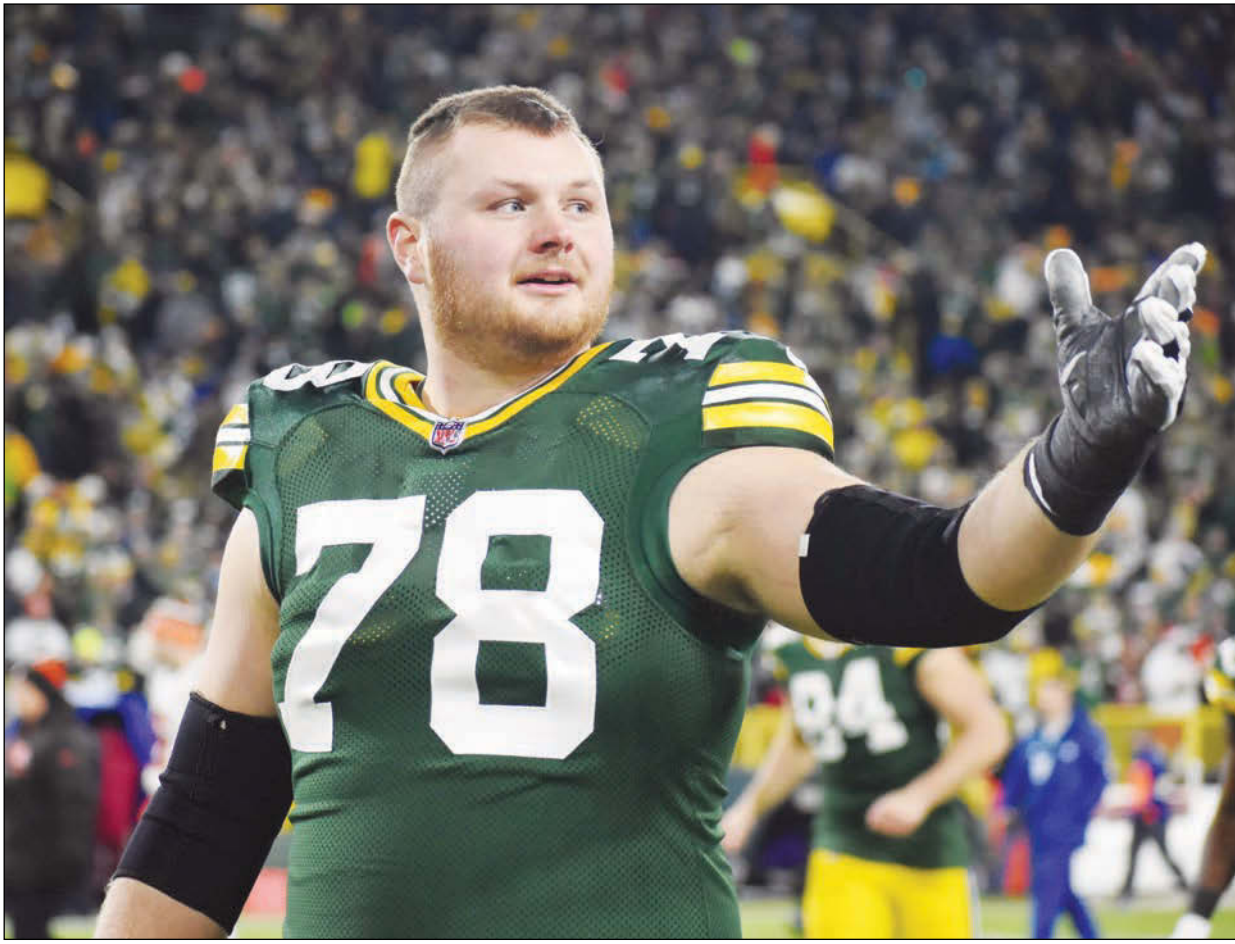
Getting into one game capped a wild first season for Van Lanen.

After being a sixth-round pick of the Packers in the 2021 NFL Draft, Van Lanen played in all three pre-season games and logged 92 total snaps at left guard and right tackle.

Despite his production, Van Lanen was cut by the Packers Aug. 31 to make room for their 53-man roster.

Van Lanen cleared waivers and was added to the Packers' practice squad the next day.

Due to a wave of injuries on Green Bay's offensive line, Van Lanen was brought up to the game-day roster against the Baltimore Ravens in Week 15.



Green Bay Packers offensive lineman Cole Van Lanen, a 2016 Bay Port High School graduate, recently completed his first season with the team. **Rich Palzewic File Photo**

He dressed in three games straight before getting a shot to see the field.

Van Lanen — who, after graduating from Bay Port in 2016, played at Wisconsin for four years — said he's pleased with how his first NFL season shook out.

"It was a good year for me," he said. "I could see myself progress. I didn't make the 53 initially, and that was a bummer, but it was my time to work. I progressed, and I got moved up three games. I'm ready to maximize next season."

When Van Lanen's offensive line teammates got hurt, that opened up opportunities.

"My goal this year was

to contribute in any way possible," he said. "I didn't get in there that much, but I was pulled up and part of the team. That was an awesome feeling with me being from Green Bay — I still got a snap in Lambeau. It's time to be on the team more than that. I want to make the team and be a part of this team next year."

Van Lanen said it didn't matter his only snap of the season was a kneel down.

"I've been dreaming about this since I was a kid, and now I'm living through them," he said. "Every day, it's an awesome feeling I get to wear a 'G' on my helmet. I want to make the most of that."

In those three games where Van Lanen was on the sideline — he was one of three extra offensive linemen who dress for games — he generally watched the left or right guard during plays.

Van Lanen also watched as All-Pro left tackle David Bakhtiari rehabbed a knee injury.

"Work ethic is number one," Van Lanen said. "You need to hone in on the things that are your weaknesses and improve them because at this level, everything matters. Two, you're playing for the guy next to you."

On Jan. 25, the Packers announced Van Lanen

signed a one-year futures deal with the team.

After he was drafted, Van Lanen had signed a four-year contract that was voided when he was dropped during training camp.

Now, Van Lanen can sign one-year futures deals, which this season acts similar to Year 2 in his rookie contract.

If Van Lanen doesn't make the 53-man roster and is cut this coming season, his contract will be voided.

"It shows what I've been doing has been seen," he said. "I've been told they like what I've been doing. I progressed throughout the season, and that was my job. I need to keep progressing."

I don't think I did anywhere near as well as I could have in the preseason, and now I've got these snaps at these other positions where it helped me grow as a player. I'm excited to get a fresh start this next season and show it when it matters."

Next season will be different for Van Lanen and his fellow offensive linemen.

Lucas Patrick, Dennis Kelly and Yosh Nijman are all free agents and their time with the Packers is in limbo.

That could open opportunities for Van Lanen if any of the guys aren't re-signed.

The offensive linemen will also have a new coach after Adam Stenavich was promoted to offensive coordinator. He took over for Nathaniel Hackett, who accepted the Denver Broncos head coaching job.

Luke Butkus — the nephew of legendary Chicago Bears linebacker Dick Butkus — takes over as the offensive line coach, moving up from the assistant role.

Van Lanen said he's happy to see Stenavich awarded the offensive coordinator position.

"I love him as a coach," he said. "He'll be a great OC. Butkus is going to be a good O-line coach, and we're excited to have him in our room. I'm glad Steno is still in the building. It worked out great."

Van Lanen said he's now using the offseason to work on his body composition.

He weighs 310 pounds, which is about where the Packers want him.

"I'm trying to change my body comp a bit, make sure I get stronger and work on my flexibility to come into OTAs ready to go," Van Lanen said.

## Notre Dame Academy to add boys' and girls' swimming

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

GREEN BAY – After a two-year process, Notre Dame Academy is finally ready to add boys' and girls' swimming as a Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) sport.

Notre Dame Athletic Director Matt Koenig said there were many hurdles along the way.

"It's been a long and difficult process, but I'm excited about it," he said. "Ever since I came here, I noticed we didn't have a swimming team. Mainly, the complications arise from not having our own pool. Forming a co-op team is also an option, but many times, schools don't want to jump into that situation."

Koenig said two years ago, he received correspondence from Steve Schendt, the aquatics manager at the Kroc Center.

Schendt was interested in helping get a swimming team established at Notre Dame.

"That's when it all started," Koenig said. "The main



Matt Koenig

problem was, the Kroc Center's pool is busy, just like other facilities. Just because Steve is the aquatics manager at the Kroc, that doesn't give him free rein to open lanes for whoever he wants."

Koenig said after talks with Schendt, he surveyed students at Notre Dame inquiring about adding girls' lacrosse, cheerleading, wrestling and swimming.

"That survey went out before our spring break (in March 2020)," he said. "A week later, COVID-19 hit. Everything was put on the backburner."

Late in 2020, with COVID-19 dying down somewhat, Koenig said he began actively searching for a pool again. "I called YMCAs, Ash-

waubenon and Green Bay Southwest high schools, St. Norbert College and UW-Green Bay," he said. "Part of the problem is, the WIAA won't allow two different schools to practice at the same time in the same pool – it's considered a scrimmage."

Koenig said he reached out to Schendt again a few months ago, and things had changed.

"Steve said a club team using the Kroc for swimming was disbanding," he said. "It opened up practice time five days a week for us to start a team. I didn't want to jump too far into getting a team started without first having a pool."

After adding up all the financial numbers – bussing, pool rental, etc. – Koenig got the okay from the Notre Dame administration to move forward.

"I don't know what kind of turnout there will be, but I'm willing to give it a try," he said. "We have to get it started somehow."

Koenig said there are a few ways to look at it going forward.

"We only have a verbal contract with the Kroc Center right now," he said. "We haven't officially signed anything. (The Kroc) is giving me a few months to figure things out and see if we have the interest. At some point, we do have to look at the (financial) numbers. We'll be on the hook for at least two lanes, and that can be expensive – is that worth it for four or five kids? In my opinion, yes."

Koenig said the school isn't in a position to fully fund the entire team.

**BARTOL**  
from page 32

speeds of 80 mph, which Bartol said makes for an interesting trip down the track.

"I still get nervous each time," he said. "I've crashed before, but my first time down – they didn't start me from the top – was fun. It's like extreme sledding."

Luge's counterpart, skeleton, which sends sliders down face first, is something Bartol said he's never tried and has no desire to.

"Not at all," Bartol

"We'll get some financial help from the school, obviously, but we'll also have to rely on fundraising," he said. "We also can't dump (the whole cost) on the parents. Budgets are set for next year, so we'll need to get creative to fund this."

Koenig said the least of his concerns during the process was who to compete against.

"I've talked to some schools, and many are willing to let us slide into a dual meet," he said. "I'm not anticipating the numbers we have disrupting things too

much. I'll piece the schedule together after getting things going."

An informational meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21, in the Notre Dame commons for anyone interested.

"Anybody can attend – students currently attending Notre Dame, incoming eighth-graders to Notre Dame and sixth-through eighth-graders in our GRACE (Green Bay Area Catholic Education) schools," Koenig said.

laughed. "There's no good method of steering (going face first)."

The Junior Olympic Development Team is a stepping stone for athletes looking to make the Olympic team, something Bartol said he wants to do.

"It's my goal to make the Olympics someday," he said. "To get better and have a chance, it will take lots of repetition and trial and error. I have to figure out how to go faster. I'll keep pushing forward to try and reach my goal."

When Bartol isn't attending school in-person at Bay Port, he completes his classes online.

"I have another camp in Park City (before the school year ends)," he said. "That will be my first time on that track."

Bartol does lots of cross-training to help his luge.

"I cross country-ski with Bay Nordic and mountain bike," he said. "I'm also going to play baseball this spring at Bay Port. It gives me another set of friends who like different things."

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## Bay Port freshman hoping for Olympic luge career

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

SUAMICO – With the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics coming to an end, Brock Bartol is hoping his Olympic career is just beginning.

Brock, a Bay Port freshman, and the son of Angela and Jon Bartol, recently returned from Lake Placid, New York, where he took part in a luge clinic.

A luge is a small one- or two-person sled where athletes sled face up and feet-first down an artificial track.

“I got started in luge when I saw there was a slider search coming to the area in 2016,” Bartol said. “It was like a luge sled, but it had roller skate wheels on it, so you could do it on the road. I did well there, so I was able to try on ice. I was a good candidate, so I was invited to be on the team.”

Bartol is a current member of the Junior Olympic Development Team.

Bartol said an injury in another sport also led him



Bay Port freshman Brock Bartol is a member of the USA Junior Development Luge Team.

Submitted Photo

to try luge.

“I used to ski jump, but I broke my leg,” he said. “That switched me over to a different set of sports.”

With no luge tracks in the area, Bartol has two options to slide on ice in the country: Lake Placid or Park City, Utah.

“I consider my home track to be Lake Placid,” he said. “European lugers have more tracks to choose from.”

The 5-foot-4, 112-pound Bartol said size doesn't matter in luge as much as a person might think.

“We focus lots on shoul-

der and back muscles to get good starts,” he said. “You need a good start to build your speed. Different countries have different strategies. Germany, for instance, has bigger lugers. From what I've noticed, smaller people start quicker. Luge is based more on strength and technique.”

A luger steers mainly by using his or her legs to flex the sled's runners or by exerting opposite shoulder pressure to the seat.

“There are lots of things that go into steering,” Bartol said. “You use your legs for major steering, but you can also roll your head and shoulders, too. There are also two handles for minor corrections down the track.”

Racing sleds weigh approximately 50 pounds for singles and 60 pounds for doubles.

“I don't have my own sled, so I use the team's equipment,” Bartol said. “But, I'm the only one who uses my sled.”

Lugers routinely reach

See BARTOL page 30



De Pere quarterback Gabe Herman, left, runs with the ball Oct. 22 in his team's 36-0 victory over Beaver Dam in a Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 2 Level 1 game. Herman is one of nine returning starters on offense next season. Press Times File Photo

## Michalkiewicz leaves De Pere football for Kimberly

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

DE PERE – After the De Pere High School football team won its first Fox River Classic Conference (FRCC) title since 2015, Head Coach Chad Michalkiewicz said he wasn't looking for a new job.

But then, Kimberly came calling.

Michalkiewicz, who coached at De Pere for 11 seasons, was recently hired by Kimberly for the departed Steve Jones, who resigned in December.

“Lots of people might think I'd take a job like that on a whim, but it was

a meticulous process on both sides,” Michalkiewicz said. “Kimberly did its homework and wanted to make sure who they chose was the right fit. It's an amazing opportunity for me.”

De Pere finished 9-2 over-

See MICHALKIEWICZ page 27

## Butler nabs another Horizon League honor

GREEN BAY – For the second straight week, and the third time this season, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay women's basketball player Bailey Butler was named the Horizon League Freshman of the Week.

With Maddy Schreiber receiving the award twice earlier this season, the Phoenix have received the award five times, twice more than any other Horizon League team.



Bailey Butler

Butler was key to Green Bay winning three games last week and eight

straight overall.

The South Wayne native started the week with a career-high 14 points and 4 rebounds in 23 minutes against UW-Milwaukee.

Butler was also impressive in wins at Oakland and Detroit Mercy.

Against the Golden Grizzlies, the guard scored 8 points, grabbed 5 rebounds, dished out 4 assists and had 3 steals.

See BUTLER page 28

## Girls' basketball postseason brackets released

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

BROWN COUNTY – Several area girls' basketball teams learned their seeding for the upcoming Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association postseason.

Regional play begins Tuesday, Feb. 22, while sectionals begin Thursday, March 3.

The state tournament is Thursday-Saturday, March 10-12, at the Resch

Center in Green Bay.

Locally, in Division 2, Notre Dame Academy, the defending state champs, earned a No. 1 seed and hosts the winner of No. 8 Luxemburg-Casco/No. 9 Pulaski Friday, Feb. 25.

Other area Division 2 teams are West De Pere (2), Ashwaubenon (5), Green Bay Southwest (6) and Seymour (7).

In Division 1, De Pere earned a No. 3 seed and hosts No. 14 Sheboygan South Feb. 25.

In other Feb. 25 games, No. 8 Bay Port hosts No. 9 Hartford Union, and No. 13 Green Bay Preble travels to No. 4 Milwaukee King.

No. 17 Green Bay East travels to No. 16 Milwaukee Marshall/Young Coggs Feb. 22.

In Division 5, Green Bay N.E.W. Lutheran earned a No. 13 seed and travels to No. 4 Sheboygan Lutheran Feb. 22.

For the full brackets, visit [wiaawi.org](http://wiaawi.org).

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