

Nicolet NATIONAL BANK PRESENTS Senior Spotlight

# Tanner Newton – De Pere Hockey

BY MURRAY GLEFFE  
CORRESPONDENT

**Name:** Tanner Newton  
**Nickname:** Fig  
**School:** De Pere  
**Activity:** Boys' hockey  
**Parents:** Amy and Steve Newton  
**Twitter:** @tannernewton8

Tanner Newton, a senior at De Pere High School, recently finished his hockey career with Voyageurs, a co-op team with West De Pere.

De Pere won its opening two playoff games before bowing out to the Neenah co-op team.

On the season, Newton tallied 21 goals and 36 assists.

He said his favorite National Hockey League team is the Chicago Blackhawks, his favorite movie is "Creed 2" and he enjoys cookies and cream ice cream for dessert.

**Talk about how difficult your position is.**

"In hockey, there are no easy positions. For centers, my position, you have to play 200 feet every shift. Skating up and down the ice is grueling. Centers are primarily known for scoring goals, but there are many times in the defensive zone where you must get in those board battles."

**What's the worst game in which you were hit by a puck?**

"In a spring tourna-



Tanner Newton recently completed his senior season with the De Pere hockey team.

Submitted Photo

ment for my travel team. I blocked a hard shot. I received a broken hand and was in a cast for a few months because of the play."

**What's your favorite video game?**

"Retro Bowl."

**What's a favorite memory from during the season?**

"Our playoff win against Ashwaubenon. We had a rivalry with them last year and had their number leading up to the game. To beat them again in dramatic fashion was incredible."

**Talk about your family.**

"My family is the main reason I've made it this far in hockey. For the last 15 years, they've sacrificed so much for me to play the game I love. They always give their utmost support and push me to be the best player and man I can be."

**What's the greatest piece of advice somebody has given you?**

"Regardless of what happens on the ice, have the most fun possible. Playing relaxed has led to more success."

**If you could create a mandatory class for seniors, what would it be?**

"Sports and Society."

**What's your favorite fight of all time on the ice?**

"This past season during a game for the U18 Bobcats, an opposing player decided to drop the gloves on a faceoff and started going after me. Looking back, it was hilarious."

**If you could be somebody for a day, who would it be?**

"Aaron Rodgers. He's the GOAT (greatest of all time) and my favorite player. I would love to live a day in his shoes."

**What's your favorite app?**

"YouTube."

**Iceland or New Zealand for vacation?**

"New Zealand."

**What's one thing other teammates or coaches don't know about you?**

"I can solve a Rubik's Cube in roughly 30 seconds."

**What's your favorite moment you've experi-**

**enced so far in life?**

"Winning state as a Pee-wee. The guys on that team are still my best friends."

**What are your college aspirations?**

"I'm hoping to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison or the University of Minnesota."

**Air hockey or field hockey?**

"Air hockey. I grew up playing my dad in the basement."

**What one word describes you?**

"Energetic. I can't sit still for long periods. I love being active."

**If you could be the coordinator for a senior field trip, where would you go?**

"Hawaii. I've never been on a beach vacation before, and it's a place I've always wanted to go."

**What's your favorite music genre before a game?**

"Rap."

**Who's your hockey star?**

"Cole Caufield. He's from Wisconsin, and I like how he plays the game."

**What Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association sport would be cool to add at De Pere?**

"Men's volleyball would be the most fun."

**JORGENSEN**  
from page 24

The 3-Point Challenge is at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 19, at the Kohl Center.

Fans can attend the event with tickets from the morn-

**DUFFNEY**  
from page 24

Coyotes and their fourth overall.

Duffney was the Fox River Classic Conference Player of the Year as a ju-

ing/afternoon session.

Players whose teams advanced to state are not eligible.

Contestants selected to participate in the challenge were chosen based on

three-point shooting numbers in the WisSports.net stats database.

Coaches were required to enter the player information on WisSports.net for the players to be eligible.

nior and topped 1,000 career points while at Preble.

She also holds the school record in the 300-meter hurdles and twice qualified for the state meet in both the 100 and 300 hurdles.

Duffney did not appear in

any games this season for USD after missing her senior year at Preble due to a torn ACL in her knee.

The No. 10-seeded Coyotes open the tournament March 18 against No. 7 Ole Miss.

**BASKETBALL**  
from page 24

The Lasers began the second half with a pair of 3-pointers to take a 34-23 lead.

The advantage eventually ballooned to 41-26, prompting a timeout from Boileau.

Kettle Moraine kept the pressure on and built a 49-29 lead with 10:40 remaining.

Meulemans led De Pere with 20 points, while Ciesielczyk added 9.

"I was confident we could come back being down only five at the half," Meulemans said. "In the second half, Kettle Moraine kept hitting its shots."

This was the fifth trip to state for the Redbirds, who last went during Boileau's first season on the sidelines.

Besides Meulemans and Ciesielczyk, Olivia Wall, Oakley Witteck, Lucy Meeuwse and Avery Bierowski will be lost to graduation.



Notre Dame Academy sophomore Trista Fayta, with ball, drives to the lane March 12 against Pewaukee in the WIAA Division 2 state title game. The Tritons won its second consecutive title with a 68-54 win.

Josh Staloch Photo

**STATE CHAMPS**  
from page 28

patented full-court press, which caused numerous turnovers.

The Mustangs only scored nine points in the last 11 minutes of the game.

After shooting 55% (11-20) in the first half, Meno-

monie shot 22.2% (4-18) after intermission.

Hardwick grabbed a team-high eight rebounds and had six steals for the Tritons.

**Bright future**

With the freshman Musial, sophomores Fayta,

Whitehouse and Grzesk and the junior Barington all returning next season, the future appears to be bright for the Tritons.

The five – who all started or saw significant playing time – averaged 55 points combined per game for Notre Dame this season.

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## Packers' sixth stock offering adds more than 176,000 new shareholders

GREEN BAY – The Green Bay Packers' sixth stock sale, which ended Feb. 25, added 176,160 new shareholders.

While exact totals are not yet available, more than 198,000 shares were sold at \$300 each during the offering that began Nov. 16.

Including previous of-

ferings, the organization now has more than 537,000 shareholders.

Approximately \$65.8 million was raised during the offering, with net proceeds going toward ongoing construction projects at Lambeau Field, including new video boards and course upgrades.

"We were pleased with the enthusiastic response from our fans during the recent stock offering," Packers President/CEO Mark Murphy said. "We are proud to welcome a new generation of shareholders from across the country and Canada. Their support is a critical component of

our ability to continue enhancing the fan experience and investing in Lambeau Field."

New shareholders joining the ranks include fans in Wisconsin, who accounted for approximately 17% of the shares purchased in the recently completed offering.

Next in order were fans in California (8%), Texas (5%), Illinois (5%), Florida (4%) and New York (3%).

In Canada, Packers fans purchased approximately 3,500 shares.

The Packers' first five stock sales in their history took place in 1923, 1935, 1950, 1997 and 2011.



# WEEK IN REVIEW

## Ashwaubenon boys heading to WIAA state tournament

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

ASHWAUBENON – For the first time since 2006, the Ashwaubenon (24-4) boys' basketball team is heading to the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 2 State Tournament after a pair of convincing sectional wins.

### Sectional semifinal victory

The Jaguars hit 16 3-point field goals en route to a 68-58 victory over Oshkosh North March 10 at Green Bay Southwest High School.

In the first half, 27 of the Jaguars' 31 points came via the three.

"During the season, two-thirds of our shots came from beyond (the 3-point) arc," Ashwaubenon Head Coach Mark Tomashek said. "North played a 1-3-1 (zone), and we made them tonight. The kids made some big plays. Our strength is shooting the basketball, so please, play zone against us."

Besides Boone Kirst and Marcus Tomashek hitting 2-point field goals in the first half, the Jaguars connected on nine 3-pointers in the first 18 minutes of the game.

Marcus Tomashek had four 3s in the first half, while Jayden Schoen and Matt Imig hit a pair.

Kirst also had one, as Ashwaubenon led at the break, 31-22.

In the second half, the Jaguars mostly maintained their double-digit lead throughout, helped by seven free throws by Imig, who finished with 19 points.

With Ashwaubenon up



Ashwaubenon boys' basketball player Marcus Tomashek, with ball, scored 26 points in the Jaguars' 68-58 victory March 10 against Oshkosh North. The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 2 sectional semifinal game was played at Green Bay Southwest High School.

Rich Palzewic Photo

45-30, the Spartans went on a 7-0 run to make it 45-37, but that's as close as they got the rest of the way.

The Jaguars then went on their own 7-0 spurt moments later to seize the momentum back.

Marcus Tomashek finished with a game-high 26 points and had six 3s.

"When we saw North come out in a zone, we

knew we'd get open 3s," Tomashek said. "It was their choice to play a zone against a good shooting team, and they paid for it. I came out with confidence and had my shot going."

### Sectional final win

Playing at West Bend East High School March 12, Ashwaubenon beat Nicolet, 92-71.

Tomashek poured in a game-high 46 points on 12 made field goals and 20 free throws.

Imig added 13 points, while Kirst chipped in 11.

The Jaguars led 39-18 at the break.

### State tournament

After reseeding the four state teams – Ashwaubenon, La Crosse Central,

Pewaukee and Westosha Central – the Jaguars earned the No. 4 seed and play No. 1 Pewaukee in the state semifinals at 1:35 p.m. Friday, March 18, at the Kohl Center in Madison.

No. 2 La Crosse Central and No. 3 Westosha Central play in the other semifinal game later Friday.

The winners play for the state title at 6:35 p.m. Satur-

day, March 19.

"We're excited to be playing in Madison," Coach Tomashek said in a Zoom call with Wisconsin media March 13. "It was our goal before the season, and now we're going. We started this journey when the kids were four years old. It's a blast having all these kids on the team. We have a great bond."

Coach Tomashek said the Fox River Classic Conference schedule prepared his team to play in big games.

"We're battle-tested," he said. "We've played in front of big crowds and held our own in most of those games. When you play Division 1 schools like Bay Port, De Pere and Sheboygan North, and a tough Division 2 school in Notre Dame (Academy), it prepares you. I thought maybe we'd get the No. 3 seed (at state) because of our tough schedule, but the computer rankings didn't feel the same way."

The Jaguars swept Bay Port and split with De Pere, North and Notre Dame this season.

Ashwaubenon's first opponent at state, Pewaukee, has some familiar faces to Coach Tomashek.

"There's lots of stuff going on with Pewaukee," he said. "My son (Marcus Tomashek) and Matt Imig have played on the same AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) team as (Pewaukee's) Ashton (Janowski) and Josh Terrian for four years. They're great friends and hang out lots. It's a unique relationship and crazy how it's all come together. We have a tough task ahead of us."



De Pere's Avery Bierowski, with ball, tries to split a pair of Kettle Moraine defenders March 11 at the Resch Center in Ashwaubenon. The Redbirds lost the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 1 state semifinal game, 66-47. Josh Staloch Photo

## De Pere loses to Kettle Moraine in state semifinals

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

ASHWAUBENON – Things couldn't have started much worse for the De Pere girls' basketball team in its first trip to the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association State Tournament since 2017.

The Redbirds fell behind 13-0 to Kettle Moraine and

could never recover in a 66-47 loss March 11 at the Resch Center in Ashwaubenon.

The Redbirds (24-5) finally scored at the 10:11 mark of the first half on a McKenna Ciesielczyk 10-footer in the lane.

De Pere then scored five more quick points to make it 13-7 halfway through the half.

The Redbirds stayed close the rest of the half, trailing 28-23 at the break.

Butler University commit Jordan Meulemans had nine first-half points for De Pere, while Ciesielczyk added seven.

The Redbirds didn't help their cause by committing 11 turnovers in the first 18 minutes of action, which led

to 10 Kettle Moraine points.

"We had a slow start," De Pere Head Coach Jeremy Boileau said. "We dug ourselves an early hole, but I'm proud of the girls for fighting back and making it a game."

During the 13-0 deficit to start the game, the Redbirds had seven missed shots and committed six turnovers.

See BASKETBALL page 23

## Former Preble star going dancing

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR

GREEN BAY – Carley Duffney, a 2021 Green Bay Preble graduate and a women's basketball player for the University of South Dakota (USD), is heading to the NCAA Division I National Tournament after the Coyotes won the Summit League Tournament March 8 against South Dakota State University (SDSU).

USD held SDSU to less than 25% shooting from the field in the 56-45 victory.



Carley Duffney

It was the third consecutive Summit League Tournament title for the

See DUFFNEY page 23

## De Pere's Jorgensen to participate in 3-Point Challenge

DE PERE – The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association announced the participants for the 3-Point Challenge as part of the 2022 Boys' Basketball State Tournament this weekend at the Kohl Center in Madison.

De Pere senior Jack Jorgensen has the highest percentage among the 10 participants at 51.5% (53-of-103).

See JORGENSEN page 23



Jack Jorgensen



# WEEK IN REVIEW

## De Pere boys fall one game short of state tournament

BY MURRAY GLEFFE  
CORRESPONDENT

DE PERE – The De Pere boys' basketball team saw its season fall one game short of a trip to the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) Division 1 State Tournament.

### Sectional final loss

The Redbirds (25-3) lost a 74-70 game to Menomonee Falls in a sectional final game March 12 at Hartford Union High School.

Stats were not available online.

### Sectional semifinal win

Both teams entered the game with identical records and a state ranking.

Something had to give.

Led by John Kinziger's 35 and Will Hornseth's 21 points, De Pere defeated Homestead 87-77 in a WIAA Division 1 sectional semifinal game March 10 at Manitowoc Lincoln High School.

"It was a great win for us tonight," De Pere Head Coach Brian Winchester said. "We went with some high ball screens, and Johnny (Kinziger) made some great plays, especially in the second half."

Tim Franks led Home-

stead with 34 points in defeat. Gabe Herman ripped a long ball to give the Redbirds an early 11-5 lead.

With about eight minutes left in the first half, Hornseth got the crowd involved with a rim-rattling dunk for a 21-14 lead.

De Pere eventually took a 40-31 lead into intermission.

The Highlanders (24-3) scored the first two baskets of the second half to trim the lead to 40-36, but the Redbirds took off from there.

After Kinziger converted on an old-fashioned three-point play, the Redbirds built a double-digit lead, 48-38, with 15 minutes remaining.

Homestead's offense kept clicking, but its defense couldn't keep up.

Both Kinziger brothers, John and Zach, and Hornseth had little resistance in converting multiple layups, as De Pere took a 70-58 lead with five minutes left.

Down the stretch, the Highlanders were forced to foul after scoring on their offensive end.

The Redbirds canned 8-of-10 free throws in the final minutes.

*Editor's note: Sports Editor Rich Palzewic contributed to this story.*



Led by John Kinziger's 35 points, the De Pere boys' basketball team defeated Homestead 87-77 in a Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 1 sectional semifinal game March 10 at Manitowoc Lincoln High School. **Murray Gleffe Photo**



Michael Spethmann scored 56 seconds into overtime to lift the St. Norbert College men's hockey team to a 4-3 win over St. Olaf College in a National Collegiate Athletic Association first-round game March 12 at the Cornerstone Community Ice Center in Ashwaubenon. **Murray Gleffe Photo**

## Game-winner from Spethmann in overtime carries St. Norbert to win

BY MURRAY GLEFFE  
CORRESPONDENT

ASHWAUBENON – Michael Spethmann scored 56 seconds into overtime to lift the No. 6-ranked St. Norbert College men's hockey team to a 4-3 win over St. Olaf College in a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) first-round game March 12 at the Cornerstone Community Ice Center in Ashwaubenon.

"The improbable run St. Olaf was on was probable," St. Norbert Head Coach Tim Coghlin said. "They stuck to their game plan. It took everything we had in the tank to come back and find a way to win in overtime."

Peter Bates whizzed a pass to Spethmann in the opening minute of overtime for the game-winner.

With the victory, the Green Knights advanced to take on Augsburg University March 19 in a quarterfinal matchup for the right to go to the NCAA Division III Frozen Four in Lake Placid, New York.

St. Norbert was fortunate to be playing in the extra session after trailing 3-1 with about 16 minutes remaining in the game.

Liam Fraser and Brendan Mark each scored for the Green Knights to even the game in the third period, setting up the dramatic finish.

St. Norbert outshot St. Olaf, 51-26.

Colby Entz made 23 saves in net for St. Norbert, while Lukas Haugen stopped 47 shots for the Oles.

St. Olaf, which came into the contest as the only sub-

.500 team to ever make the NCAA Division III tournament, didn't look like an underdog to start.

The Oles (11-15-3 overall) scored 65 seconds into the game when Tyler Cooper found the upper right corner of the net for a 1-0 lead.

With a little more than eight minutes remaining in the first, St. Olaf tallied a second goal by Parker Casey.

The Green Knights (24-6) got on the board minutes later.

Ian Famulak flipped a puck into the St. Olaf zone, and it took a funny bounce off the boards.

Haugen reacted to his left, but St. Norbert's Evan Cholak quickly corralled the puck and found the open net to bring St. Norbert to within 2-1 after the first period.

The Oles took a 3-1 lead after Matthew Pointer sent a pass to a cutting Jonathan Young, who easily lit the lamp.

Fraser brought the Green Knights to within 3-2 with 15:46 remaining.

The goal was set up by Bates, who flew down the ice and sent a shot on goal that Fraser jammed into the back of the net seconds later.

In the ensuing minutes, the Oles took three penalties.

The final one cost them their lead.

With about seven minutes left, St. Olaf got caught with too many players on the ice.

After the center faceoff, St. Norbert's Brendan Aird found Mark, who buried the power-play goal to even the score at 3-3.

## Musings with Rich: It was good to be back

BY RICH PALZEWIC  
SPORTS EDITOR



**Rich Palzewic**

ASHWAUBENON – It was good to be back at the Resch Center in Ashwaubenon last weekend.

Nearly two years to the date, the 2022 Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Girls' Basketball State Tournament was back at its home.

Last season, the Resch didn't host the state tournament because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, only four of the state games were played – the other 11 were canceled.

I was one of the few people who attended the state tournament that year – I was covering Crandon for another newspaper in the Multi Media Channel family.

It was a Thursday night, and after the game, I heard mumbblings about the possibility of the remainder of the tournament being canceled.

I didn't think it was a possibility they'd cancel the other games, especially since they had already played semifinal games in Division 4 and 5 – sadly, I was wrong.

Selfishly, I was most upset for the Bay Port girls' team.

Days before the state tournament, I went to one of their practices and did a state video with them, introducing the players

and coaches.

A few days later, they weren't able to defend their 2019 Division 1 state title.

What a difference two years make.

Back were the loud crowds and exciting play.

Notre Dame Academy got the job done for the second straight season in Division 2, while Kettle Moraine (1), Waupun (3), Mineral Point (4) and Randolph (5) also took home state titles.

De Pere also made an appearance in Division 1, so that was fun to witness, too.

With the girls' state tournament being at the Resch since 2013, it's found a home – a home I hope is here to stay.

Let's hope the COVID-19 pandemic is a thing of the past and we never have to deal with that again.



# Getting to know your Green Bay Glory: McKayla Kertscher

BY VICTORIA WITTENBROCK  
INTERN

GREEN BAY – McKayla Kertscher is a member of the Green Bay Glory women's soccer team, first joining the squad during its inaugural 2019 season.

Kertscher, a Sheboygan native, said her favorite memory of being on the team is engaging with the fans and community of Green Bay at games.

"It's cool to have that much support at games," she said. "From a behind-the-scenes perspective – which is where I was during the 2021 season due to injury – it's cool talking with the fans during games, scouting out halftime entertainment and seeing the community enjoy our team."

Kertscher said she's learned lots from her teammates over the years, but the most important lesson Glory has taught her is to love the game.

"There are women on our team who have children and others with full-time jobs," she said. "We're all at different stages in our lives but come together at Glory for the love of the game."

Around the age of six, Kertscher started playing soccer, but she said it

wasn't love at first sight.

"I didn't like soccer at first because the jerseys were way too big," she said.

In addition to her role on the Glory, Kertscher also holds a starting spot on her college team at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (UWGB).

Kertscher said Division I collegiate soccer can be very different from playing in the USL (United Soccer League) W-League.

"Glory is a short season played over the summer months, so as a team, we need to gel and adapt to each other quickly, whereas, in college, the team spends lots of time together," she said. "Regarding the style of play, the Horizon League is known for being highly physical and competitive, but the USL W-League is a conglomeration of girls from colleges in the Big Ten, Big East, SEC (Southeastern Conference) or other large conferences, which brings an increased level of athleticism and increases the speed of play."

At UWGB, Kertscher is studying elementary education (graduating in the spring of 2022) and then will begin her master's in Applied Leadership for

Teaching and Learning.

Kertscher said she aspires to become an elementary school teacher but is also keeping her options open for other career opportunities to work with the youth.

Although being a full-time collegiate student-athlete and playing for the Glory is a commitment, Kertscher said she likes to take advantage of her free time.

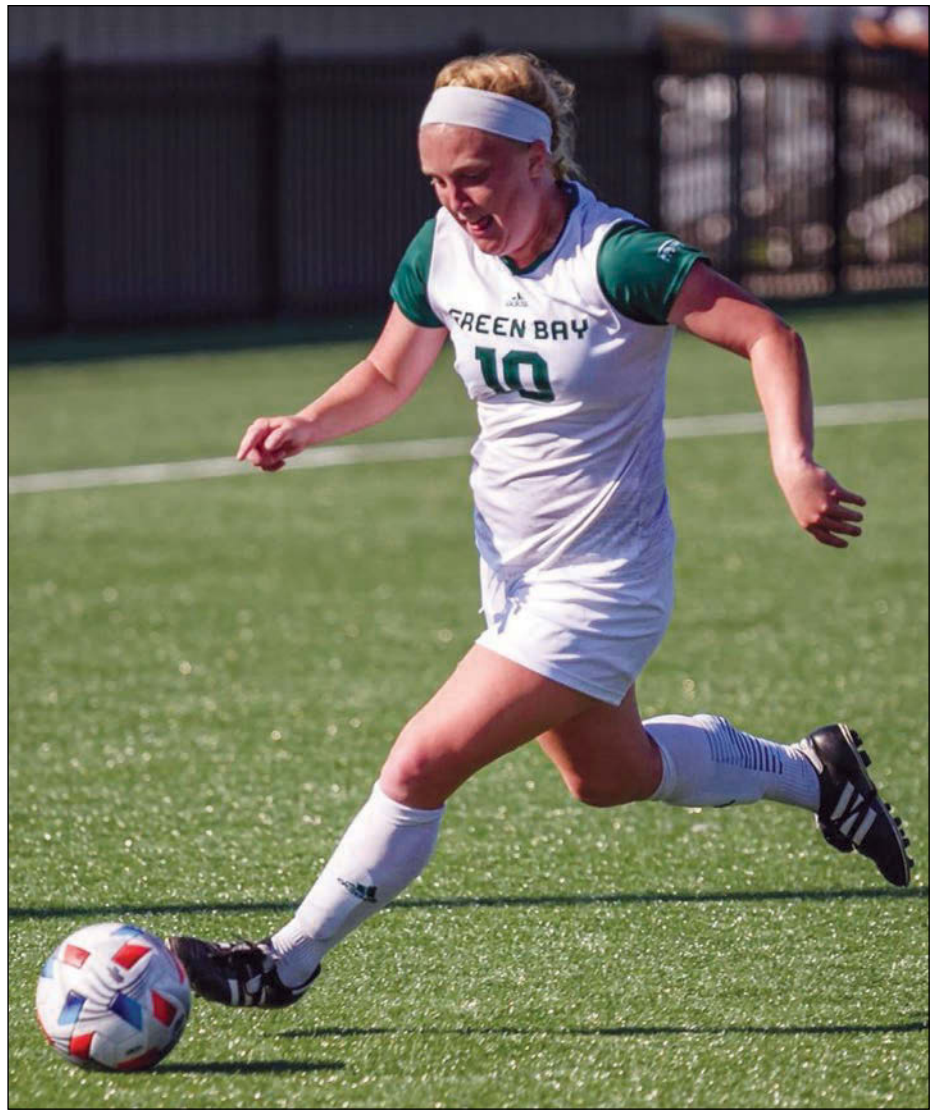
"In my free time, I like to hang out with my family and friends and sneak in a quick nap once in a while," she said.

Over the years, Kertscher has accumulated several soccer role models, but currently, Lauren Holiday – formerly Cheney – is her favorite.

"She doesn't play professionally anymore, but I'm inspired by her good character through all she's endured through life," Kertscher said.

Kertscher has some good advice for young athletes who hope to someday become superstars.

"Don't get caught up in your performance and all of the accolades," she said. "Just play the sport because you love it and trust that your hard work will take you far."



McKayla Kertscher is a member of the Green Bay Glory and University of Wisconsin-Green Bay women's soccer teams. Kertscher is a Sheboygan native. **UW-Green Bay Athletics Photo**

# Green Bay Rockers unveil new mascot, furry teammate

BY VICTORIA WITTENBROCK  
INTERN

ASHWAUBENON – The Green Bay Rockers are all in with its new 'rock' theme.

The Northwoods League team unveiled its new uniforms and mascot March 9 at Capital Credit Union Park.

Among those in attendance were loyal fans and season ticket holders, all eager to show their support for the franchise and the local community.

This is the second re-branding the team has undergone, the first being the transition from the Green Bay Bullfrogs to the Booyah in 2019.

Vice President and General Manager John Fanta said the Rockers philosophy is that "Music is an important part of the experience."

"When the gates open, the show's gonna start," Fanta said.

## The mascot

The hype leading up to the mascot unveiling featured a video highlighting the feet of the team's new mascot traipsing all around the City of Green Bay, with stops at Lambeau Field, the Resch Center and finally,



The Green Bay Rockers Baseball Club unveiled its new uniforms for the upcoming season.

out from behind the curtains, he emerged – Rhodie.

For those unfamiliar with the entertainment industry, the road crew, or roadies, are support personnel who travel with a band on tour.

Director of Partnerships Brian Kuklinski said Rhodie always wanted to be a performer but ended up getting stuck as a roadie – until now.

Kuklinski said at each Rockers home game, Rhodie will have an opportunity to take the stage and

entertain the crowd, while living out his dream.

## Uniforms

In addition, the team unveiled its 2022 uniforms.

The home jersey and pants feature royal blue pinstripes, while the road uniforms incorporate a royal blue jersey and gray pants with a royal stripe.

An alternate jersey, designed by Rockers graphic designer Alyssa Halverson, features a guitar with baseball laces around the left shoulder.

The guitar neck extends down the left pant leg, acting as the stripe for the pants.

The team said players will wear both the pinstripes and alternate jerseys throughout the summer.

## Bat dog

The newest member of the team, Luke, also made his debut March 9.

Luke, a chocolate lab puppy, is being trained by Lindsay Johnson of Miller Heights K9 Academy in Green Bay to take on the

role of bat dog this year.

He'll be close to six months old by the time Opening Day arrives and will be in charge of grabbing each Rockers player's bat after they complete their at-bat.

## Roster additions

The team also announced five new roster additions March 11.

- OF Marcos Castillo, Coppin State
- RHP Rashad Ruff, Coppin State
- RHP Giovanni Canales, Coppin State
- IF/C Nainoa Cardinez, University of Hawaii
- OF/P Keaton Anthony, University of Iowa

"These five players provide a great base to go along with the four returning guys," Rockers field manager Chris Krepline said. "The pitchers are power arms sitting in the low to mid-90s, a couple of dynamic hitters and a former Conference Player of the Year."

The Rockers season is scheduled to begin May 30 against Wisconsin Rapids.



The new Rockers mascot, Rhodie. **Victoria Wittenbrock Photos**



The new bat dog, Luke.







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# STATE CHAMPS!

## Notre Dame girls win second consecutive title



The Notre Dame Academy girls' basketball team celebrates its second consecutive WIAA Division 2 state title March 12. The Tritons beat Pewaukee in the championship game, 68-54. **Josh Staloch Photo**

**BY RICH PALZEWIC**  
SPORTS EDITOR

ASHWAUBENON – Notre Dame Academy girls' basketball player Trista Fayta had a rough first half in her team's Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) Division 2 state title game.

The sophomore was 1-for-4 from the field and committed four turnovers.

That all changed in the second half.

Led by Fayta's four 3-pointers in the second half, the Tritons won their second consecutive state title with a 68-54 victory over Pewaukee March 12 at the Resch Center in Ashwaubenton.

Fayta finished with 27 points, including being a

perfect 11-for-11 from the free-throw line.

"Because I didn't make my first couple of shots, I knew I had to keep shooting," Fayta said. "I figured one would eventually fall."

With Notre Dame (29-1) leading 34-28 early in the second half, the lead ballooned to 51-36 moments later when the Tritons went on a 17-8 run.

Peyton Musial hit a pair of free throws before Fayta and Musial hit back-to-back 3s.

Fayta then hit three consecutive 3s on as many trips down the floor to send the crowd into a frenzy.

In a tight first half, Pewaukee (26-4) took a 26-25 lead into intermission.

Notre Dame held a 23-20 lead with two minutes

remaining, but the Pirates scored six consecutive points to grab the lead.

"The girls did a great job sticking to the defensive game plan," Notre Dame Head Coach Sara Rohde said. "Offensively, we wanted to get the ball inside."

Tritons forward Sarah Hardwick, who made all five of her field goals in the first half, scored 11 points before the break, including 10 of the first 12 for her team.

Sydney Whitehouse added eight points, including a pair of 3-pointers.

Hardwick finished with 17 points, while Whitehouse added 13.

"As a senior, I can't think of a better way to go out," Hardwick said. "We had a target on our back from the

beginning of the season. The underclassmen will have to deal with the pressure again next season."

With the win, Notre Dame won its 28th straight game and its fifth WIAA state title overall.

Before winning last year, the Tritons also won in 2001, 2013 and 2014.

Rohde said in a few weeks, she'll meet with the team about plans for next year.

"It's crazy to think we'll already be chatting about next season in a few weeks," she said. "Obviously, our goal is to win another state title – that's what you play for."

### Semifinal victory

Four Notre Dame players scored in double digits in a 64-45 state semifinal victory

against Menomonie.

Hope Barington (13 points), Fayta (12), Gracie Grzesk (12) and Whitehouse (10) led the Tritons in scoring.

Notre Dame trailed 7-1 a few minutes into the game before grabbing a 12-10 lead at the 14:37 mark of the first half.

"We're kind of used to those slow starts," Rohde laughed. "We did the same thing with Beaver Dam (in the sectional finals). I have trust in my girls and know we'll eventually score. If I felt it was getting out of hand, I would have called a timeout. Menomonie started well and tried to speed things up a bit."

The Mustangs led 19-14 before the Tritons ended the first half on a 21-11 run

to take a 35-30 lead at the break.

Picking up two first-half fouls, Grzesk committed her third and fourth personal fouls two minutes into the second half and was forced to sit on the bench for the next 10 1/2 minutes of play.

"When I picked up my second, I knew I couldn't pick up my third (in the first half)," Grzesk said. "My (third and fourth) fouls were silly – I needed to show my hands and be better about that."

After Grzesk went to the bench, Menomonie clawed to within 41-39 after consecutive 3-pointers.

From there, Notre Dame regained control with its

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